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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIII, Issue No. 125

TUESDAY JUNE 25, 2013

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Should the Commonwealth Government Employees Credit Union be abolished?

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INSIDE

NATION



Admitted leaker Edward Snowden seeks asylum in Ecuador.

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Bomb attacks in the Syrian capital kill at least eight people.

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LIFE & STYLE



Turns out zombies and Superman are no match for monsters.

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Federal court finds 2 BEH employees abused their powers. PAGE 2
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U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

'CNMI a destination, transit for forced labor and sex trafficking'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The U.S. State Department's newly released 2013 Trafficking in Persons Report tags the CNMI as a "destination and transit location for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking."

This comes amid the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs statement during the weekend that there is no reconsideration of the scheduled closure of the Federal Labor Ombudsman's Office at the end of fiscal year 2013 on Sept. 30.

For 14 years, the Federal Labor Ombudsman's Office has helped refer to proper CNMI and federal agencies thousands of foreign workers who were victims of labor abuses, human trafficking, sex trafficking, forced labor, illegal recruitment, wage theft, and contract violations,

among other things.

Besides the CNMI, four other U.S. insular areas—Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands—have also been identified as transit, destination, or source for human trafficking, forced labor, and sex trafficking.

The State Department said during the reporting period, the Federal Labor

» Interior says no extension of Federal Labor Ombudsman's Office beyond FY 2013

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Mandela in critical condition

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Nelson Mandela's condition in a Pretoria hospital remained critical for a second straight day Monday, said South Africa's president who described the stricken anti-apartheid hero as being "asleep" when he visited Mandela the previous evening. President Jacob Zuma told at least 60 foreign and South African journalists that doctors are doing everything possible to ensure the 94-year-old's wellbeing and comfort on his 17th day in the hospital. The president repeated some

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In this Wednesday, July 18, 2012 file photo, former South African President Nelson Mandela as he celebrates his 94th birthday with family in Qunu, South Africa.



SUPERMOON

JESSIE PAGSINOHIN

Early Sunday's supermoon plays peek-a-boo with clouds over Saipan. The moon, which reached its full stage early Sunday morning, was 13.5 percent closer to Earth during a phenomenon known as supermoon. It happens only once this year as the moon on its elliptical orbit is at its closest point to earth.

Power rate hike likely in September

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

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REPORTER

Utility rates may be adjusted in September, with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. now readying for a public hearing in two months' time.

CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren disclosed this to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, while assuring that there will be no rate adjustments next month.

"There are no plans to increase rates in July. CUC is working on a rate petition

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Another investor eyes Tinian Dynasty

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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REPORTER

Government officials and management of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino met yesterday to discuss, among other things, a Hong Kong-based investor

group's interest in buying the only casino in the CNMI.

This comes at a time when Taiwan-based Howarm Golden Islands continues to negotiate with Tinian Dynasty about buying the hotel and casino.

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Local

Federal court finds 2 BEH employees abused their powers

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The federal court yesterday determined that a Bureau of Environmental Health employee and her superior appear to have abused their law enforcement powers to oppress a businesswoman.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said that bureau employee Rosalia Kapileo-Igisaia (Kapileo) illegally entered businesswoman Juvy Macahito Rojo's home and illegally confiscated and destroyed her property.

Manglona said that Kapileo's superior, John Tagabuel,

ratified Rojo's conduct. When Rojo complained to Tagabuel, he insisted that Kapileo acted properly.

Manglona made the determination in granting in part and denying in part Tagabuel, Kapileo, and co-defendants' motion to dismiss Rojo's lawsuit.

Rojo had planned to open a catering business, which she would operate out of her home in Koblerville. She is suing the defendants over an alleged raid by bureau inspectors at her home in September 2010.

The defendants want the lawsuit dismissed, arguing that they possess qualified immunity because Commonwealth law authorized their actions.

Manglona disagreed.

Manglona said that both Kapileo and Tagabuel refused to provide Rojo a hearing to contest the \$1,500 fines. Kapileo and Tagabuel then used these "unconstitutional fines" as a basis for withholding a sanitary permit and to extract payment from Rojo.

"A reasonable official would know such acts violate her clearly established right to be free of such oppression," Manglona said.

The judge noted that a government official violates a person's substantive due process rights when the former's acts "shock the conscience."

"Tagabuel and Kapileo's acts

plausibly do," she said, adding that Kapileo and Tagabuel violated Rojo's procedural due process rights.

Manglona pointed out that Rojo complained about the impropriety of the penalties to Tagabuel. Yet Kapileo and Tagabuel did not advise Rojo of her right to a hearing on these fines and insisted that she pay them, the judge said.

Manglona said the report imposing the fines also did not notify Rojo of a right to a hearing.

"Thus there is a factual dis-

pute regarding the fines, and Kapileo and Tagabuel did not notify her of her right to a hearing," Manglona said.

The judge ruled that Kapileo and Tagabuel plausibly lack qualified immunity from the lawsuit. Manglona said it is clearly established that issuing a fine requires providing a notice of a hearing.

"A reasonable officer would be aware of Rojo's due process right to a hearing and the requirement to notify her of it," she said.

Despite the government's contentions, Manglona said the fine's proper assessment under Commonwealth law is irrelevant.

In the same order, the judge determined that bureau inspectors Lau Laniyo and Mel Ngiraui possess qualified immunity and dismissed them from the lawsuit.

According to court papers, Rojo had planned to open a catering business in August 2010 but despite the business not be-

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TO MEET CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

NMC, PSS collaborate to help teachers

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College and the Public School System are working together to help public school teachers and other personnel meet their certification requirements.

NMC is offering various classes through its Community Development Institute, each one consisting of 45 contact hours. Participants earn college credits for enrolling in these classes.

Over 170 PSS employees, mostly classroom teachers, were recently issued 90-day notices for not complying with the Board of Education's policy on licensure and certification. Their employment contracts will be renewed if they fail to meet the requirement within deadline.

At a June 11 meeting of the BOE, these non-compliant classroom teachers were given a one-year extension to fulfill all certification and licensure requirements. The board also waived the practice teaching requirements for those already teaching for quite some time.

According to NMC, classes for these teachers are ongoing as part of NMC's School of Education's Individualized Degree Plan. These classes are offered either in the fall or spring semester.

These classes include "Inclusive Practices for Student with Learning Problems"; "Social Studies in Action: A Methods Course"; "Assessment & Evaluation"; "Instructional Strategies and Classroom Management"; "Curriculum in Early Childhood Education"; "Educational Technology"; and "Multicultural Foundations." All classes are taught by instructors certified by NMC's School of Education.

A certificate will be provided to participants upon completion of the courses.

"We are extremely glad to be collaborating with the PSS in helping teachers and other PSS employees meet the certification requirements," said NMC dean of Academic Programs and Services Barbara Merfalen.

"We continue to work together in other opportunities where

PSS and NMC can partner to benefit all CNMI students," added Merfalen.

Meantime, the college announced that the NMC University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities will be funding the first 22 eligible students who register for the summer class, ED 315 Inclusive Practices for Students with Special Needs.

UCEDD will cover the cost for course tuition (\$285), NMC admissions application fee (\$25), registration fee (\$20), general course fee (\$75), and the CDI facilitation fee (\$25). This is a total savings of \$430 for each student who registers for the ED 315 course. Slots are limited and are a first-come, first-serve basis. Class started yesterday, June 24.

For more information about these programs, contact Les Ogumoro-Uludong, CDI program manager, at 234-5498 Ext. 1010 or email logumoro@gmail.com. You may also email Charlotte Cepeda, director of NMC's School of Education, at charlottec@nmcnet.edu.

Community invited to celebrate 68 years of freedom

Liberation Day committee chair Vicente Camacho is urging the entire CNMI community—Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands—to come in full force to celebrate this year's Liberation Day festivities at the Civic Center in Susupe.

"This year we celebrate 68 years of freedom. ... The CNMI is an island-nation shared by other nationalities with the same ideals of equal opportunity for all. Our people, regardless of national ethnicity, race, religion, age, or gender are making a difference in our everyday lives and have, most notably, involved themselves in the election of our political leaders, the fight against corruption, and ensuring that their pursuit of happiness is not threatened," said Camacho.

This year's Liberation Day celebration is made more special, he said, following the suc-

cess of the people's mandate in last year's elections.

"Our people are feeling a sense of pride and have entrusted our elected leaders to move our island-nation forward for all to prosper and enjoy the individual rights according to our Constitution."

This year's Liberation Day committee has adopted the theme, "The Spirit of Cooperation—Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness."

It kicks off at 6pm on June 28 when the Liberation Day carnival grounds open with the official ceremony at 7pm.

The Liberation Day Queen coronation will be held on July 1 beginning at 7pm, while the much-awaited Liberation Day parade will be held on July 4 beginning at 10am along Beach Road in Garapan.

The parade route will start in

Guano Rai and proceed south to the Civic Center grounds.

There will also be nightly entertainment at the Civic Center grounds during the duration of the Liberation Day celebration where vendor concession stands of all sorts are present.

In addition, Camacho said the Liberation Day committee has designated an area for the consumption of alcohol and tobacco at the Civic Center grounds.

Camacho also reminded those concerned that a meeting is scheduled on July 1, 3pm at the Civic Center grounds for all parade and float representative to discuss lineup, start times, safety, guidelines, and other procedures.

For more information about the 2013 Liberation Day celebration, contact the Saipan Mayor's Office at 234-6208. (Saipan Tribune)



How is your baby growing?

If your child displays any of the following signs of possible developmental delay, talk to your doctor, nurse, or other health care provider about it:

Developmental Health Watch 4 to 7 Months

- Seems very stiff, with tight muscles
- Head still flops back when body is pulled to a sitting position
- Does not like to cuddle
- Shows no affection for the person who cares for him or her
- Doesn't seem to enjoy being around people
- Persistent tearing, eye drainage, or sensitivity to light
- Does not respond to sounds around him or her
- Has difficulty getting objects to mouth
- Does not roll over in either direction
(front to back or back to front) by 5 months
- Seems impossible to comfort at night after 5 months
- Cannot sit with help by 6 months
- Does not laugh or make squealing sounds by 6 months
- Does not actively reach for objects by 6 to 7 months
- Does not follow objects with both eyes at near (1 foot)
and far (6 feet) ranges by 7 months
- Does not bear weight on legs by 7 months
- Does not try to attract attention through actions by 7 months
- Experiences a dramatic loss of skills he or she once had

Learn the Signs. Act Early.

You may also contact the **Children's Developmental Assistance Center (C*DAC)** at **664-4830** for a **FREE** developmental screening!

Information adapted from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, Learn the Signs. Act Early. Supported in part by project H25MC06112 from the MCHB (Title V, Social Security Act), HRSA, DHHS.



Governor appoints 5 to NMC, CPA, PUC, Humanities Council

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO and
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REPORTERS

Gov. Eloy S. Inos nominated and re-nominated yesterday five individuals to serve on the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents, Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors, Public Utilities Com-

mission and Council for Humanities. He also withdrew an earlier nomination for the Civil Service Commission.

The governor re-nominated Frank M. Rabauliman and William Torres to the NMC Board of Regents. Their terms are both expiring this week.

Rabauliman is currently the Division of Environmental Quality director. His supposed

last day as NMC regent is on June 27. He was first appointed by then governor Benigno Fitial in June 2009 for a four-year term. If confirmed by the Senate, Rabauliman will serve another four-year term expiring on June 27, 2017.

Torres served the unfinished term of then board chair Maria Paz Younis who quit the post in February 2011. This term is expiring on Wednesday, June 26. If confirmed by the Senate, Torres will have another four-year term that expires on June 26, 2017.

Inos, in separate letters to the two, indicated that he is confident that the two are still interested in continuing to be an asset to the Board of Regents.

"If my can be of any assis-

tance relative to your reappointment and confirmation, please let me know. Your willingness to serve our people is most appreciated," Inos told the two in separate letters yesterday.

Inos also re-nominated Benigno M. Sablan to serve on the CPA board representing Saipan. If confirmed, Sablan will serve another four-year term expiring on June 26, 2017.

The governor also nominated Dave B. Guerrero to serve on the PUC representing Saipan.

Guerrero's nomination to PUC, which has regulatory oversight over utilities entities, requires the confirmation of both the Senate and House of Representatives.

If confirmed, Guerrero will serve a four-year term to com-

mence on the date of his confirmation.

The governor nominated Frankie Eliptico to serve as a member of the Council for Humanities. The Senate's advice and consent is not required in this nomination.

Eliptico's term as a member of the Council for Humanities begins immediately and will expire on April 23, 2014, serving the unexpired term of Susana Deleon Guerrero.

Eliptico, when asked for comment, said he has "always been a big fan of the events that have been organized by the NMI Humanities Council."

"I think it's great that I get this privilege to be part of a team where I can more actively participate and support activi-

ties that deepen understanding of the arts and humanities," Eliptico told *Saipan Tribune*.

Eliptico was also recently elected as chairperson of the board of the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation and preservation of the CNMI's natural resources.

Meanwhile, the governor also withdrew yesterday the administration's April 1 appointment of Felicitas "Tee" Pangelinan Abraham to serve as a member of the Civil Service Commission.

Trial of 4 in Dandan riot begins

The bench trial of four men accused of beating up a fisherman and assaulting the latter's parents in Dandan in 2011 began yesterday in Superior Court.

Assistant attorney general Chemere McField called to the witness stand seven persons, including the fisherman, Domingo Blas Cruz.

On trial are Don Pangelinan Sanchez Jr., Kelvin Cabrera Sanchez, John Carlo Guartiano Sanchez, and Joaquin Vargas Sanchez.

The lawyers representing the defendants are Stephen Nutting, assistant public defender Matthew Meyers, Samuel I. Mok, and Brien Sers Nicholas.

The trial will continue today, Tuesday, at 10am. Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho is presiding over the trial.

Cruz, 32, said the incident happened on Oct. 9, 2011. He and some friends had been hanging out at his niece's house when Kelvin Sanchez, who had just dropped off his girlfriend in the area, allegedly shouted profanities at either

him or his cousin.

He said that Kelvin Sanchez then left but returned after 10 minutes with the three other defendants.

One of the defendants allegedly challenged Cruz's group to a fight, causing an exchange of profanities.

Cruz said he saw John Sanchez holding rocks and another

» Fisherman testifies how suspects ganged up on him

man, later identified as Joaquin Sanchez, carrying a sword.

He said his mother told the suspects to leave because she had

called the police.

Cruz said he saw one defendant pushing his mother then Kelvin Sanchez punched him, knocking him out for about two seconds.

"I then felt all the punching and kicking," he said.

Cruz said the beating only stopped when his brother pulled him out.

He said the defendants fled when the police came.

Witnesses said that John Sanchez pushed Cruz's father, who tried to separate the suspects. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Man allegedly attacks pregnant girlfriend

A man was arrested in Dandan last week for allegedly punching more than 10 times his eight-month pregnant girlfriend in different parts of her body inside a car.

The alleged victim told police that Bradley James Delos Reyes Palacios, 21, only stopped beating her when she stopped crying and trying to get out of the vehicle.

The alleged victim sustained bruises on the arms and back. She refused to be checked at the hospital for injuries, police said.

Palacios was taken to Superior Court on Thursday on charges of assault and battery and disturbing the peace. He is being kept on a \$10,000 cash bail.

Police detective Francisco Romeo O. Iginoef stated in his report that a police officer responded to a call on June 9 at 5:17pm about a domestic violence incident.

Iginoef said the preliminary investigation showed that Palacios had picked up his girlfriend at her grandmother's house on June 5 as she had a doctor's appointment at the Common-

wealth Health Center.

He, however, made a left turn and headed south. The girlfriend started crying because she was afraid that Palacios would beat her up again.

When she asked him to turn the car around because she wanted to go home, their argument escalated.

Palacios then allegedly slapped her face. As she tried to roll down the car's window to call for help, he allegedly pulled her hair then punched her on the head, face, and left side of the body.

Palacios only stopped hitting her when she stopped crying. He brought her to his house in Afetnas.

Later that day, while she was sitting on a folding chair outside Palacios' house, he told her to go inside. When she ignored him, Palacios allegedly pulled the chair and flipped it, causing her to fall to the ground.

The girlfriend said she was in so much pain. She said she became so scared of him that she just followed what he wanted to avoid his punches. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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INVESTOR

From Page 1

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz confirmed that a Hong Kong-based publicly traded company whose name he said can't be disclosed at this time "is interested in acquiring" Tinian Dynasty.

"This is very positive development. It shows that foreign investors are interested in investing on Tinian. As of today we don't know how much they are offering to buy Dynasty. Nothing is set in stone yet," Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Tinian mayor added that the Hong Kong-based investor is "willing" to sit down and look into the Dynasty issues concerning employees' back wages, unpaid obliga-

tions to vendors and suppliers, and concerns from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

"This company is interested in bringing in high rollers from Asian countries to be flown to an isolated island like Tinian. The company thinks they can come in and make the Dynasty profitable, that they can work with and comply with IRS [requirements]," he added.

Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian), one of the members of the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation at yesterday's meeting, separately confirmed the investor's interest in buying Tinian Dynasty.

All he could say about the meeting was that there was a "clear understanding" of the concerns faced by Dynasty.

"We're being cautious in addressing these issues, including

another investor looking at buying Dynasty. There is no guarantee at this time," he added.

Matthew Masga, chairman of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission, separately confirmed that there is another investor "interested in purchasing Dynasty" even as Howarm continues to negotiate to buy Dynasty too. He declined to comment further on the matter.

Dynasty management could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Masga, meanwhile, said at least one payroll for Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission will be delayed—the one set for this Friday—because they don't expect to collect local gaming tax from Dynasty until July 7.

Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, one of the biggest private

employers on Tinian, is the only one on island that offers five-star hotel facilities and casino that is the first of its kind in the Western Pacific.

It opened on April 25, 1998, with a total of 412 guest rooms, including 22 executive suites and two presidential suites.

In April, federal agents arrested one of two Dynasty executives for an alleged failure to file a currency transaction report, and executed warrants to seize Tinian Dynasty property and its money in bank accounts.

Agents of the Internal Revenue Service's Criminal Investigation spearheaded the operation after a complaint was filed last April in federal court, charging the defendants with conspiracy to allow gamblers to conduct transactions involving more than \$10,000 without fil-

ing the required paperwork with the U.S. government.

Federal law requires that a currency transaction report or

ing the required paperwork with the U.S. government.

Federal law requires that a currency transaction report or

POWER

From Page 1

to be filed in July, with the anticipation of September public hearing," he said.

Warren said the rate filing will not be completed until mid-July so he doesn't have any specifics to discuss until then.

Customers of the utilities corporation did not experience any increase in their power, water, and wastewater bills in the last four months. CUC last adjusted its LEAC (levelized energy adjustment clause) rate on March 5 due to increased fuel costs.

The LEAC is part of the customer's bill that reflects the cost of fuel. It goes up or down to reflect the cost of buying fuel to run the power plants. The other component of the bill is the electric base rate.

CUC customers hope to see more reasonable utility rates in the CNMI.

One of these customers is 46-year-old Elna Delos Santos, a resident of Dandan Village. She said she used to pay only \$180 to \$190 per month on power consumption. This time, for the May billing alone, Delos Santos said she was billed a to-

BEH

From Page 2

ing in operation yet, two bureau inspectors, including Laniyo, ordered her to cease operating. The inspectors did not afford her a hearing to contest the order.

In September 2010, Rojo continued preparations to open the business and asked for a bureau inspection.

The day after making the request, bureau employee Kapileo "banged" on the door of Rojo's home at 7:30am.

At the time, Rojo was preparing a meal for the workers repairing her mother's house, which was located next door.

When Rojo opened the door, Kapileo barged into the kitchen without asking permission and began barking penalties at Rojo and her sister.

Rojo explained that she was only cooking "for the workers at her mother's house" and not for a catering business.

Kapileo responded that she did not want their "BS" and fined them a total of \$1,500.

After issuing the fines, Kapileo began confiscating Rojo's property. Kapileo used two trash bags "to empty the contents of two refrigerators and a freezer," along with the food Rojo was then preparing.

During or after this process, Kapileo called Ngirausui and Laniyo for assistance.

They fined Rojo \$500 for lacking a sanitation permit and \$1,000 for two people cooking without food handling certificates.

All three inspectors then left

CTR be filed with the IRS by financial institutions, including casinos, for any currency transaction over \$10,000.

tal of \$264.95 for 712 kilowatt-hour consumption. For water, her billing was \$87.22 for May.

In the last four months that CUC did not enforce any rate increases, Delos Santos said her family was able to save \$50 to \$60 per month in utility bills. She said this helps her cover for the telephone bills and other expenses. In four months, Delos Santos' family saved over \$200.

"I hope that CUC, when it adjusts the rates in September, will come up with a reasonable and affordable amount for its customers. Yes, we were able to save in the last four months, but what if new rates [in September] are higher than the previous months?" she said.

With a few months away to the end of the fiscal year in September, CUC has already spent a substantial amount for fuel. Warren earlier disclosed that from October 2012 through May 24, 2013, the corporation spent \$38.9 million for fuel alone. The agency, it was learned, spends about \$5 million per month for fuel.

CUC is a nonprofit organization whose operation relies on the payment of its customers. It remains under a state of emergency.

the house "with four trash bags filled with Rojo's property," which they then ostensibly disposed of at the Commonwealth landfill.

Rojo complained to Kapileo's superior, Tagabuel. But Tagabuel insisted that Kapileo acted properly. Tagabuel did not advise Rojo of any right to a hearing to contest the penalties and seizures.

After all of this, Rojo still wished to operate a catering business. But Kapileo and Tagabuel insisted that she pay the fines first before they would process her application.

In October 2010, she paid \$225 toward those fines and the bureau inspected her facilities and issued her a permit.

In January 2011, Kapileo and Tagabuel ordered Rojo's business closed for not paying her fines.

Around this time, Rojo discovered that not all her property was destroyed from the inspectors' raid. She found her pressure cooker in Kapileo's office. Rojo requested its return and Kapileo obliged.

Five months after Kapileo and Tagabuel ordered her business closed, Rojo wished to open a new catering business and submitted a new application to the bureau.

Kapileo and Tagabuel refused to process her application until she paid the previously issued fines.

Rojo then filed the lawsuit over the seizure and destruction of her property, and for refusing to process her new catering business application.

MANDELA

From Page 1

of the content of a presidential statement issued on Sunday and refused to give any details about Mandela's condition, saying: "I'm not a doctor."

"Madiba is critical in the hospital, and this is the father of democracy. This is the man who fought and sacrificed his life to stay in prison, the longest-serving prisoner in South Africa. He is one of those who has contributed to democracy," Zuma said, using Mandela's clan name. "All of us in the country should accept the fact that Madiba is now old. As he ages, his health will...trouble him and I think what we need to do as a country is to pray for him."

Zuma, who in the past has given an overly sunny view of Mandela's health, briefly described his visit to the hospital in the capital and seeing Mandela.

"It was late, he was already asleep," Zuma said. "And we then had a bit of a discussion with the doctors as well as his wife, Graca Machel, and we left." Zuma was accompanied on the visit by Cyril Ramaphosa, the deputy president of the

country's ruling party, the African National Congress.

Asked why none of Mandela's doctors had been made available for a news briefing, presidential spokesman Mac Maharaj said an arrangement had been made in consultation with Mandela's family whereby information would be provided through a "single source in an authoritative way."

"We've come to that arrangement on the basis that we need to respect the privacy of the family, we need to adhere to doctor-patient confidentiality," he said.

"You can be assured that what we are saying is based on agreement with the doctors," Maharaj said. Doctors approve the text of announcements on Mandela's health, and believe some media reporting has transgressed professional ethics, he said.

Mandela, who became South Africa's first black president after the end of apartheid in 1994, was hospitalized on June 8 for what the government said was a recurring lung infection. This is his fourth hospitalization since December.

In Sunday's statement, Zuma also discussed the government's acknowledgement a day earlier that an ambulance carrying

Mandela to the Pretoria hospital two weeks ago had engine trouble, requiring the former president to be transferred to another ambulance for his journey. Pretoria, South Africa's capital, lies about 50 km (30 miles) from Johannesburg, where Mandela has been living.

"There were seven doctors in the convoy who were in full control of the situation throughout the period. He had expert medical care," Zuma said. "The fully equipped military ICU ambulance had a full complement of specialist medical staff including intensive care specialists and ICU nurses. The doctors also dismissed the media reports that Madiba suffered cardiac arrest. There is no truth at all in that report."

Mandela was jailed for 27 years under white racist rule and was released 23 years ago, in 1990. He then played a leading role in steering the divided country from the apartheid era to an all-race democracy, becoming South Africa's first black president in all-race elections in 1994.

Mandela, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, is seen by many around the world as a symbol of reconciliation, and Zuma appealed to South Africans and

position," OIA told *Saipan Tribune* on Saturday.

An online petition to keep the Ombudsman's Office in the CNMI open has almost reached its goal of gathering 2,000 signatures or petitioners.

The State Department's newly released report cited as an example a foreign labor contracting from 2009.

Just recently or on June 7, a bar owner—Chang Ru Meng Backman—was convicted in the U.S. District Court of the NMI of one count of sex trafficking by force, fraud or coercion, involving women recruited in China in August 2008 based on promises of jobs at a hotel or farm in America or Saipan, only to be forced into prostitution once they got here.

This prosecution resulted from an investigation that started in the summer of 2009 by the

the ombudsman's office closure is a result of a "dramatic shift" in the office's work—"from working on serious labor and trafficking violations to assisting individual alien workers with more routine immigration and labor issues."

However, as former ombudsman James Benedetto pointed out, the ombudsman's office data itself shows that nearly three times as many human trafficking victims sought help from the office under federal control than those who came during the pre-federalization period, and roughly the same number of labor complaints has been received by the ombudsman's office as from 1999 to 2008.

"There will be an Interior representative in the CNMI. The OIA is in the process of working to fill the field representative

CNMI

From Page 1

Ombudsman's Office under the Interior's OIA reopened an investigation of a case of fraud in foreign labor contracting from 2009 "and identified 10 more human trafficking cases" in the CNMI.

The victims have filed applications for T nonimmigrant status, the State Department report says.

"Federal authorities charged two men with conspiracy to commit sex trafficking and financially benefiting from a sex trafficking venture involving Chinese women; both defendants pleaded guilty and sentencing was pending at the close of the reporting period," the State Department report adds.

Earlier, Interior's OIA said

2 lawmakers push for PSS ‘school choice’ program

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Reps. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) and Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) introduced Friday a 22-page bill that would create a “school choice” program wherein the Public School System would be allowed to send some students to attend classes in private schools instead of

PSS classrooms by fall 2013, for only a portion of what PSS currently spends on each student and therefore use the remaining funds for other students.

These students will still be considered PSS students, so enrollment and federal funding will not be affected.

PSS will lower its student-teacher ratio and effectively cut costs without reducing public

services while improving the overall quality of education, the bill’s authors said.

They said the school choice program will not only address the shortage of teachers and classrooms in public schools, but also lower the costs to PSS and the CNMI general fund.

Acting House speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan) referred the bill to the Education

Committee.

Because the PSS students sent to private schools under the school choice program technically never leave PSS, student numbers will technically remain constant and federal funding is unaffected, the bill says.

“PSS students will simply attend classes on a private school campus and PSS will not lose any teachers due to adverse classroom conditions,” the bill adds.

At least 15 states in the U.S. mainland have established successful school choice programs that the CNMI can model its program after, while 30 more states have legislation underway.

The bill’s authors said once PSS implements the school

choice program, it will provide parents with the opportunity to send their children to less crowded private schools by using some but not all of the funding that would have been used by their children in a PSS classroom.

In terms of simple economics, for every one student that receives a voucher and transfers out of PSS, per-pupil spending—especially in the schools outside of Saipan—will increase because PSS will retain a portion of the funds associated with that student, the bill says.

The bill says if PSS spends \$5,000 per pupil now, the cost to PSS of the student taking advantage of the voucher program

will decrease as a matter of law.

By transferring and taking only \$3,000 or whatever amount PSS determines is best, the cost of private school tuition—depending again on PSS policy—will be largely covered.

“Thus, if PSS decides to set the voucher amount at \$3,000, then PSS will save the remaining \$2,000,” the bill adds.

The bill’s authors said with the enactment of HB 18-91, the Board of Education will have the sole authority to select the program that best fits PSS needs. These include opportunity scholarship programs, most commonly called school vouchers. The bill cites six types of school vouchers programs.

OAG: Guard suing Barcinas offered to pay witness

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has disclosed that evidence will be presented to show that a security guard who filed a sexual harassment lawsuit against Hopwood Junior High School principal Jonas Barcinas personally offered to pay a witness or witnesses \$5,000 to \$10,000. Assistant attorney general David Lochabay said the government expects the evidence to show that Homayan Kabir offered to pay a witness or witnesses to testify on his behalf, regardless of the truth of the testimony.

“The Commonwealth anticipates that at least one potential witness was told he could ‘make a

story’ for his testimony,” said Lochabay in the CNMI government and Barcinas’ pre-hearing brief.

Lochabay said that attempting to pay a witness not only constitutes obstruction of justice and bribery but it also has been historically considered an admission by conduct.

Attorney Joseph Horey, counsel for Kabir, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Kabir is not offering money to anyone and that he is not interested in any false accusations against Barcinas.

“He is only interested in true testimony, or reliable information that could lead to true testimony. Anyone with such information should contact my office,” said Horey in an email.

The lawyer said that Kabir has accused Barcinas of sexual harassment and that he has heard that others have had the same experience with the principal.

Horey said his client tried to investigate to discover if that is true.

“Barcinas is now claiming that Kabir asked people to make up false stories about him [Barcinas] in exchange for money. That is not true,” Horey added.

In a brief filed last week, Horey stated that since the only witness to the incidents of assault and battery were Kabir

himself and Barcinas, Kabir intends to present his case primarily through his own testimony.

Horey said that Kabir may also present testimony from his wife, Cynthia Attao.

“Ms. Attao did not directly witness the incidents of assault and battery, but can corroborate certain circumstances relating to them,” the lawyer said.

He said the only documentary evidence that Kabir intends to present are photographs of the scene where one of incidents took place, for illustrative purposes only.

Due to the private nature of the incidents, Horey said it is likely that this case will pit Kabir’s word against Barcinas’ to at least some extent.

The lawyer said many sexual harassment cases involve an accuser’s word against that of the alleged harasser, the so-called “he-said, she-said” incidents.

Kabir filed the sexual harassment lawsuit against Barcinas and PSS in November 2007 in federal court. He alleged that Barcinas, who was then principal at Dandan Elementary School, sexually harassed him by making repeated sexual advances on him.

Barcinas denied the allegations. He earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that the security guard was only making up the story.

Water outage in Koblerville on June 26, 28


Koblerville residents will experience a nine-hour partial water outage on Wednesday, June 26, 2013, and Friday, June 28, 2013, from 8am to 5pm on both days, according to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. yesterday.

The purpose of this water outage is to allow CUC’s contractor, AIC Marianas Inc., to replace non-working gate valves along As Gonno Rd., Eskabeche Ave., Essok Ave. and Estufao Ct. This project is part of the Koblerville Gate Valve and Fire Hydrant Replacement Project funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This project will provide improved water service for residents in the community.

The partial water outage on Wednesday, June 26, will affect the higher ground residents living west of Koblerville Rd. (behind the Koblerville fire station).

The partial water outage on Friday, June 28, will affect the residents living on Essok Ave. and Estufao Ct.

Because of the scale of the work to be performed, CUC recommends that motorists take alternate routes and exercise caution when driving through the construction sites. For more information, contact project manager Yvonne Cabrera, at (670) 235-7025-30, Ext. 324. (CUC)




Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

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This advertisement is paid for by NMHC with CPD Funds.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of \$1,342,758.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving \$968,331.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); \$325,684.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, \$48,743.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2013.

The following projects were previously awarded CDBG funds, but due to HUD program requirements, the funds originally allocated to these projects were reprogrammed. For PY 2013, NMHC is restoring the CDBG funding for these previously selected projects in the following order of priority. Projects on this list will be provided PY 2013 funds up to the actual CDBG allocation and any remaining projects will be PY 2013 alternate projects.

The following projects to receive PY2013 CDBG funds are:

1. Public School System: Saipan Southern High School (SSHS) Swim for Life Instructional Pool.
 - Approximately \$250,000.00 of CDBG funds to be allocated to SSHS Swim for life instructional pool.
2. Public School System: Gregorio T. Camacho (GTC) Elementary School library extension.
 - Approximately \$200,000.00 of CDBG funds to be allocated to GTC Elementary School library extension.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of persons. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single-family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Information concerning eligibility uses of the grant funds may be obtained upon request at the respective offices of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located on Garapan, Saipan; San Jose, Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota.

In order to plan ahead as to the use(s) of the PY 2013 allocation, the NMHC will be conducting hearings to obtain public input on community development and housing needs, and to provide information to the public on the status of the approved ongoing CDBG projects. The public hearings will be held as follows:

1. On Rota, July 1, 2013, at 6:30 p.m. at the NMHC Office, Songsong Village;
2. On Tinian, July 2, 2013, at 6:30 p.m. at the NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and,
3. On Saipan, July 3, 2013, at 6:30 p.m. at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the public hearing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CDBG program, such as eligibility criteria and program requirements, may be directed in writing to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. 500514, Saipan, MP, 96950, or by calling Zenie P. Mafinas, Deputy Corporate Director at 234-6866 or 234-7689.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

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¹ The Annual Percentage Rate of 4.99% is for new approved personal loan applications received 6/23/13 to 6/30/13 with a principal amount of \$10,050.00 and a term of 48 months. Loans with other principal amounts (\$2,500 minimum loan amount) and terms are available, but the Annual Percentage Rate could be different. For Guam only, for loan terms greater than 36 months, minimum loan amount is \$9,301. There is a one-time documentation preparation fee of \$50.00, which will be added to the principal balance of the loan. For a 48-month loan of \$10,050 at 4.99% APR, you will have 48 monthly principal and interest payments of \$230.25. Offer subject to credit approval. This offer not available for Business or Real Estate Loans. Refinances of existing First Hawaiian Bank credit cards, personal loans or lines-of-credit do not qualify for the offer.

² Subject to credit approval. United MileagePlus cardholders will receive one mile for every \$1.00 of net purchases and one additional mile per \$1 of qualifying ticket purchases, made directly from United. Apply between 6/23/13 and 6/30/13 and if you are approved, receive 5,000 MileagePlus bonus miles upon account opening. 5,000 MileagePlus bonus miles with your first purchase by 9/30/13 and an additional 10,000 MileagePlus bonus miles when you spend \$1,500 by 9/30/13. Please allow 6-8 weeks after completed qualifying purchases for bonus miles to be posted to your MileagePlus account. Additional limitations, terms and conditions apply.

³ A minimum deposit of \$100 (or just \$5 with direct deposit) is required to receive the gas card and open a Secure Checking account, or a Priority Banking Level 1 or Level 2 checking account. A minimum deposit of \$1,000 is required to receive the gas card and open a Priority Banking Level 3 checking account. You will receive the \$7 gas card as a gift when you open a new (not converted) Secure Checking account or Priority Banking personal checking account. Customers opening their Secure Checking account online will receive the gift by mail within 4-6 weeks after account opening. This offer cannot be combined with any other Secure Checking account promotion or offer. Limit of one gas card per customer or account. We reserve the right to substitute an item of similar value. Offer valid from June 23, 2013 through June 30, 2013 or while supplies last. Accounts not available for business or corporate customers. Mobil and Smiles are trademarks of Exxon Mobil Corporation. Exxon Mobil Corporation is not affiliated with First Hawaiian Bank and is not a sponsor of the promotion.

⁴ One sweepstakes will be conducted in Guam/CNMI. Two (2) prizes will be awarded. The prizes will be given to the winners once the prizes are validly claimed and eligibility is verified. Each prize winner will receive 1 Economy (H-class) ticket valid for travel on flights operated by United or operated by other airlines and branded "United Express" between Guam or the CNMI and the continental U.S., Alaska, Hawaii, Canada, Mexico, Central America, Caribbean, Europe or Micronesia. Approximate retail value is \$1,750 per ticket. Flights are capacity controlled and seats may not be available on all flights or on all dates. Customer is liable for all applicable taxes, fees and surcharges. Travel must be completed by 1/24/14. Other terms, conditions and limitations will apply. You will be entered into the Sweepstakes when you open a new personal First Hawaiian Bank United MileagePlus Credit Card account, and with each First Hawaiian Bank United MileagePlus Credit Card transaction posted by 6/30/13. No purchase or banking relationship is necessary to enter the sweepstakes. Void where prohibited. The sweepstakes begins at 9:00 a.m. on May 1, 2013 and ends at 4:00 p.m. on June 30, 2013. Visit any branch or fhb.com for official rules and how to enter, including how to enter for free. The sweepstakes is only open to residents of Guam/CNMI age 18 or older. Limit 100 entries per person.

Cabrera, Farrel are Tinian High's most outstanding graduates

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian High School bestowed its highest honors on Isabel Taguiam Cabrera and Rikkie Castro Farrel, who emerged as this year's valedictorian and salutatorian respectively.

The two led this year's batch of 44 seniors who were conferred high school diplomas during commencement exercises held Friday at the Antonio M. Borja Amphitheater on Tinian.

This year's theme is "Do not be afraid to explore: Dare to disturb the universe" and was key-noted by classroom teacher and adviser Regina Palacios.

Joining Cabrera and Farrel on the elite Top 10 list are Patrick Dicang Kwon, Delfin Jose King Biz, Veronica Bayog Borja, Crystal Consolacion Lunag Borja, Christopher James Famaw, Marquina Mendiola Hofshneider, Jessabel Christine Nedego, and Jonalene Marie Manglona Lizama.

In her valedictory address, Cabrera was grateful to her family, mentors, and peers for their all-out support, guidance, and assistance throughout the years.

"Thank you for all the knowledge that you have shared, the faith you have bestowed upon us in our moments of doubt, and for the motivation and encouragement we needed and still



Tinian High School's top 10 students are recognized on stage during commencement ceremonies Friday at the Antonio M. Borja Amphitheater on Tinian.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

need to excel in all our future endeavors," she said.

"Sometimes you have to save your best for last, other times you've got to take your chance. But don't ever worry about being the last one with a card in hand. Don't think of yourself as the loser of the game, because there will be more rounds to be dealt. Instead, look on the bright side and tell yourself that you still have the card to play. With that, my fellow graduates I say to you: Do not be afraid to explore and dare to disturb the universe!" she added.



ISABEL TAGUIAM CABRERA
Valedictorian



RIKKIE CASTRO FARREL
Salutatorian

Farrell, meantime, urged his fellow graduates to continue strive for their dreams.

"To the Class of 2013, we did it. We are starting our lives in the real world. We are determined and we are not afraid. I just want to tell you this: In whatever you do, I believe you'll all succeed, but remember don't be afraid to explore, go out there and make your mark."

The keynote speaker, Palacios, urged the new graduates to never stop achieving for their goals.

"It doesn't stop here. Knowledge comes with experience. Go

and experience everything—don't limit yourself to just the rock that we stand on. Listen to this carefully: pursue education without fear, for no man can ever take that away from you. It is the only thing that cannot disappear on its own," she said.

Friday's ceremonies was also attended by the members of the Board of Education led by chair Herman Guerrero, the PSS leadership team led by Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., elected government officials, families and supporters of the graduates.



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, seated center, poses with nurses at the Commonwealth Health Center after Friday's proclamation ceremonies at the public hospital. The government endorsed June 23 through 29 as the CNMI Nurses' Week.

June 23-29 is CNMI Nurses Week

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos has proclaimed June 23 through 29 as CNMI Nurses Week to honor their valuable contribution to the Commonwealth.

In a proclamation ceremony Friday morning at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Inos urged the community to

join the government in honoring nurses by celebrating their accomplishments and efforts to improve the islands' health-care system.

"You deserved to be honored and celebrate the many good things you are doing for the sick. In my personal experience, I do appreciate the services you all do because it's not easy to spend all day with sick

patients...I guess it comes with the commitment. Thank you for your services to our people," Inos told the crowd of mostly nurses, assuring them of the government's continued support and assistance to all nurses on the islands.

In a proclamation read by nursing director Letty Reyes, she said that professional nursing has been demonstrated to be

an indispensable component in the safety and quality of care of hospitalized patients.

This year's theme is "Delivering quality and innovation in patient care" in celebration of the ways in which nurses strive to provide safe and high quality patient care and map out the way to improve the CNMI's health care system.

"The demand for nursing services will be greater than ever because of the aging of the population, the continuing expan-

sion of life-sustaining technology, and the explosive growth of home care services," she said.

In the CNMI, more qualified nurses will be needed in the future to meet the increasingly complex needs of health care consumers, she added.

The public hospital has over 160 nursing staffers right now and needs more.

According to Reyes, their number is expected to go up as six of the 36 new nursing graduates from Northern Marianas

College last month are working on their application papers for employment at the hospital. She also cited the collaboration between the hospital and the CNMI Board of Nursing.

Inos said that NMC should be commended for running a good program that will surely benefit the island community.

Inos also supports the idea of forming a non-profit organization of retired nurses where the hospital, in times of need, could tap the retired professionals.

'Use online program's \$500K to hire more teachers'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Due to an expected manpower shortfall in public schools come the new school year, a member of the State Board of Education

Change in support policy urged for Yvette

Former public school teacher Ambrose Bennett wants CNMI government agencies and businesses to revise their policy in supporting CNMI representatives so they can donate funds to the candidacy of his daughter, Yvette, who is vying for the Miss International USA tiara.

Yvette Marie Deleon Guerrero Bennett won the 2013 Miss Idaho U.S. International last year and will represent the state in the Miss International USA Pageant in Orlando, Florida, on June 28 and 29.

"We would like to...encourage our local government agencies, businesses, and organizations to change their policies from supporting only a CNMI representative but to support anyone from the CNMI, especially when they have a chance to put

the CNMI on the national and international stage. Regardless of what else they may represent, they are still CNMI ambassadors," said Ambrose in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

The elder Bennett said the Marianas Visitors Authority and some private companies have unfortunately not supported his youngest daughter because she is not officially representing the CNMI but Idaho.

He argues, however, that Yvette was born and raised in the CNMI and is a homegrown ambassador of the islands.

"Yvette's exposure has always highlighted the CNMI as her birthplace and the place where she grew up, which is exposure for the CNMI. The two ads that have been placed in the National Pageant Booklet will do more to highlight and expose the CNMI than the parade that we invested over \$100,000 on. My wife and I can't even imagine the magnitude of the ads if Yvette wins."

Ambrose said CNMI gov-

wants funds for the system's distance education program be reprogrammed to hire classroom teachers in August.

Marylou Ada, who chairs the board's capital improvement project committee, said there

ernment and business leaders should take a cue from another U.S. territory—Puerto Rico—when it comes to supporting candidates.

"We must learn to *carpe diem* if the CNMI ever wants to gain national and international prestige. The CNMI needs to go out of its way like Puerto Rico does when it comes to supporting people from [their home]. When Puerto Rico captured the Miss America title it opened the floodgates for tourism in Puerto Rico which is why these pageants are so important."

Aside from his obvious frustration with the lack of support, Bennett said their family is looking forward to seeing his daughter not only represent Idaho but the Commonwealth as well in the competition.

"We have been very busy helping Yvette because at the national level they expect the contestants to be able to raise all the money they need; the only thing that was covered was the hotel and food. We are so proud of Yvette that we can't put it in words and, given the plethora of support given to Yvette, most of the CNMI is rooting for our daughter. ...Regardless of what happens in the national competition we will forever be Yvette's biggest fans and thanks to those who have been following and supporting Yvette and all of our daughters over the years."

Those who are willing to be one of Yvette Bennett's sponsors may contact Lilianne or Ambrose Bennett at (670) 256-6602 or you can stop at any First Hawaiian Bank and make a deposit of any amount in Yvette M. Deleon Guerrero Bennett's account and email her the amount you deposited so your name will be on her list of sponsors. (*Saipan Tribune*)



Bennett

is a need to revisit the online program of the system after concerns were raised by many students and parents.

Saipan Tribune learned that PSS spent \$503,895 this fiscal year for the distance education program on three islands.

According to federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh, the system offered 48 online classes in the first semester of the school year to about 1,800 students. In the second semester, online classes were reduced to 36 and were availed by about 1,500 high school students.

"Since we're spending over half-a-million dollars for these 36 online classes, I want to know the flexibility of the program. Can we convert that [amount] into permanent FTEs so we can hire teachers in-

stead?" asked Ada.

She disclosed that in her conversation with many students and parents, they believe that the distance education program is not working to the advantage of many students due to non-person instruction they are receiving.

Ada also pointed at the high number of students who are dropping each semester from the program as they are not satisfied with the non-traditional classroom setting approach.

In distance education programs, classes are conducted online by instructors, who are hired for the program by the system.

According to Thornburgh, hiring online teachers is way cheaper than getting actual classroom teachers and instructors. PSS earlier dis-

closed that the online program is also a way to address the overcrowding and high student ratio in many schools.

This school year, PSS only has a little over 400 classroom teachers, of which 10 recently relocated the island. Hiring for replacements and additional teachers is hampered by the lack of budget.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., believes, however, that distance learning is about 21st century education and is a proven effective tool across the globe.

In many school districts, similar programs have been actually expanded to junior high and elementary students because of positive results, she said. In the CNMI, the program is only offered to high school students.

Instead of suspending or

eliminating the program, Sablan said the board and the PSS should look into how this can be strengthened and enhanced for better results.

The commissioner asked that the management be given ample time to collect and review its data before a decision is made on the program.

"We're putting together a data review. Give us time to put together our reports so that we can make an informed and sound decision," she said.

Board member Janice Tenorio recommended the conduct of a survey to see how the program can be enhanced.

Tenorio said that many students remain uncomfortable about taking online classes than the traditional way of receiving instructions and lessons from classroom teachers.

GES breaks bank in McTeacher's Night stint



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Garapan Elementary School principal Paulette Sablan, third from left, and vice principal Liela Yumul, second from right, hold the giant check presented by McDonald's Saipan for the school's McTeacher's Night stint last April. Also in photo are, from left, McDonald's Saipan president Joe Ayuyu, McDonald's Saipan general manager Marcia Ayuyu, and executive assistant for the president Mabel Ayuyu.

Garapan Elementary School took pole position in McDonald's Saipan's McTeacher's Night fundraiser after its stint manning the cash registers and takeout counter of the fastfood restaurant in April garnered the most sales.

McDonald's Saipan president Joe Ayuyu congratulated GES principal Paulette Sablan and vice principal Liela Yumul for their fundraising feat during the check presentation held yesterday at the restaurant's Middle Road branch.

Also present were Ayuyu's wife and McDonald's Saipan general manager Marcia and daughter Mable, who serves as executive assistant to Ayuyu.

McDonald's Saipan launched McTeacher's Night in December to generate funds to support activities and proj-

ects of individual schools of the Public School System. Under the effort, teachers and staff of the school serve customers at McDonald's in exchange for a percentage of sales.

Ayuyu said the GES staff did an outstanding job and he is so happy that the school, which is the largest elementary school in the Commonwealth, was able to raise a lot of money for its needs.

For her part, Marcia Ayuyu thanked GES for all the hard work they poured in during their McTeacher's Night campaign.

Sablan and Yumul said they were pleasantly surprised to find out that their school has so far raised the most money in McTeacher's Night.

What probably helped, Sablan said, was their strategy of assigning a grade level each

during the five nights in April that they took part in McTeacher's Night.

She also thanked her staff—all 53 of them—who volunteered for McTeacher's Night. Sablan said they all enjoyed the experience and had so much fun trading in their lesson plans for aprons and takeout earphones and mike sets.

Parents and students who patronized McDonald's during GES' stint at McTeacher's Night were also applauded. Sablan said that, without their commitment and dedication to GES, the school's success at McTeacher's Night wouldn't have been possible.

Yumul also thanked staff, parents, and teachers not only for raising a lot of funds for the school but also for exceeding expectations as well as

working hard with a smile all throughout their McTeacher's Night stint.

GES is expected to use the money raised from McTeacher's Night to buy moveable benches and picnic tables for the school, which last school year accommodated a total of 868 students.

Joe Ayuyu said public schools and teachers are especially close to his heart because he used to be a judge of PSS' Teacher of the Year competition. He said he witnessed firsthand the commitment and sacrifice of teachers, with some of them using their own money to buy supplies for the school.

He said the lack of budget for PSS is one of the reasons why McDonald's Saipan launched the McTeacher's Night campaign. (*Saipan Tribune*)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Air Force training on FDM

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on June 27, from 10am to 4pm.

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile ra-

dius on all quadrants. (PR)

CPA sets Rota auction

The auction of equipment and vehicles at the Benjamin T. Manglona International Airport on Rota that was previously set for May 17, 2013, will now be held on July 5, 2013, from 3pm to 5pm at the Commonwealth Ports Authority's conference room at the Rota airport. For more information, contact procurement officer Alex C. Tudela at 237-6500 or 237-6563. (CPA)

15 learn basics of caregiving in PCC class



(top, left to right): [guests/officials] Dr. Patrick Tellei, Minister Gregorio Ngirmang, Senator Arnold Oilouch, PIHOA President Dr. Greg Dever, and Dean Willy Wally; [instructors] Toni Faatuuala, Jason Nolan, Dr. Sylvia Osarch, and Nicholas Ngirailid.

Palau Community College graduated its first caregiving class on June 20, 2013, with 15 people receiving their certificates at the Continuing Education Training Room of the college.

The newly trained caregivers are Analyn L. Custudio, Audrily Osarch, Baily Nanawa, Benita

Gabriel, Dechol Ngchar, Edward Charles, Eleanor Manor, Heidi Yoch, Jenifer Teliu, Jovanna Imengel Ito, Lemerie Tattingal, Lsau Masayuki, Miriam Chin, Razel C. Cuenco, and Yolanda Doktok.

The event was witnessed by Palau's Minister of Health Gregorio Ngirmang, Pacific Island Health Officers' Association president Dr. John Dever, Sen. Raynold "Arnold" Oilouch, Continuing Education dean Willy Wally, and PCC president Dr. Patrick Tellei.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the Care-Giving Program at PCC is a basic training program for individuals interested in caring for homebound, bedridden patients. A basis for the program was provided by Dr. Ritabelle Fernandes of the Geriatric Education Center at John A. Burnes School of Medicine in Hawaii.

Geriatrics is a field of medicine that deals with the health-

care of elderly individuals. The training is divided into different modules, each taught a day within an hour-and-a-half's time. Instructors are certified clinical nurses, physical therapists, and psychiatrists.

In his brief introduction about the program's beginnings, Tellei shared his personal experience with caregiving for his mother. It is in this that he expressed the Palauan value of caring for the aging and the unwell: Palauans are people who do not just dump their family, especially those who are experiencing health problems, on others; Palauans are taught to care for their family members.

Wally expressed a similar point by emphasizing cultural practice. He pointed out that Palauans have always been ones to hide issues, especially family issues, from the public eye. It is from this mind state, he believes, that Palauans should stay away. He said that Palau has a

total of about 400 bedridden patients and a shortage of capable care-givers. Palauans should be encouraged to ask for assistance and train in the right methods of care-giving.

Dever lauded Palau's initiative to introduce the care-giving program. Of the many Pacific islands, it is one of the few that are trying to incorporate a geriatric study for its society. He recognized how other islands, such as Samoa, are beginning to consider a similar program because of the results coming out of Palau.

Miriam Chin, who was chosen to speak on behalf of all the participants, said that they were given a better understanding of

such illnesses as dementia. She recognized the practical learning benefit of the program: instead of learning all the caregiving information through a book, students were required to apply the knowledge in real-life situations. She expressed hope that the program will be extended so that more information can be provided.

Dr. Sylvia Osarch, an active supporter of the program since its beginning, emphasized how stressful it can be especially on the person providing care. It is difficult to care for people and maintain a job without having to sacrifice one thing for another, especially if you have children to consider and an entire house-

hold to maintain. She encouraged Oilouch to find a means of providing a fund for people who become full-time care-givers, requiring that care-givers train and receive a certification in the program provided at PCC.

The Care-Giving Training Program began on June 10, 2013, and ran for about two weeks. A total of 100 individuals have signed up for the program. Following the graduation of the first group, an additional four sections are to take part in the training.

The program is still open for sign-ups! Interested individuals are encouraged to join and to learn how to care for those in need. (PCC)



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT
Happy birthday to my 4-year-old, George Blas Jr.! Greetings come from Mommy, sister, and brother Keoki.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Palau enlists drones to enforce commercial fishing ban

Palau is planning to ban commercial fishing in its 200-mile exclusive economic zone starting next year, and to become the first Pacific nation to use drones to enforce fisheries rules.

Palau is used to being in the

lead in the region on conservation initiatives, but in a region where virtually every island depends on fisheries revenue for survival, this move by President Tommy Remengesau, Jr. stands out.

Remengesau said he prefers to call the ban on fishing, "Palau's total marine sanctuary." In August, Palau will do a test run using drones to patrol its southern waters, which are a hotspot of illegal fishing. (Radio Australia)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 25, 2005

Dignitaries arrive for imperial visit

Dignitaries have already begun arriving on the island for the June 27 and 28 visit of Japanese Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko on Saipan to honor and pray for the war dead in the Battle of Saipan 61 years ago. Expected to arrive last night was deputy assistant secretary for insular affairs David Cohen, according to press secretary Peter A. Callaghan. Tonight, the Japanese ambassador to the U.S. Ryozo Kato is scheduled to arrive to participate in the imperial visit. His counterpart, U.S. Ambassador to Japan John Thomas Schieffer is said to arrive Sunday night.

Babauta wants debt settlement with CUC

The Governor's Office wants to pursue a settlement agreement with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. over outstanding utility bills—an issue that is under litigation. Governor press secretary Peter A. Callaghan said that the administration is discussing the matter with the CUC. "The governor wants to settle this issue. There's an ongoing negotiation for this," he said. He said the Attorney General's Office is tasked to work with CUC's legal counsel in coming up with a

possible settlement agreement.

June 25, 2006

'Now is best time for CNMI businesses'

Local businesses are all keyed up these days due the influx of thousands of tourists brought about by the 6th Micronesian Games, U.S. Naval visits due to an ongoing military exercise in Guam and the July 4 event. Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Charles V. Cepeda said that USS *Frank Cable* alone brought in some 1,400 people when it docked on Saipan Friday. USS *Frank Cable* visitors consist of the ship's officers, crew, and family members "who are visiting the island to shop and enjoy the amenities." The ship leaves today.

Seaports spend high for insurance, contracts

The Commonwealth Ports Authority's Seaport Division posted large expenses for insurance, personnel, and contractual services during the first seven months of fiscal year 2006. The seaport's \$660,000 expenditure for insurance is actually larger than its spending for personnel's salaries and wages, amounting to \$377,464, plus benefits of \$97,605. Contractual services, meantime, totaled \$109,297 from October 2005 to April 30, 2006.

June 25, 2007

Air China seeks fed OK on Beijing flights

China's flagship carrier is seeking approval to operate scheduled

flights connecting Beijing and Saipan. Air China filed its application with the U.S. Department of Transportation on May 31, 2007. According to the application, Air China plans to operate two nonstop flights a week between Saipan and Beijing, beginning July 15, 2007. The airline is requesting authority to serve the route for at least one year. If awarded the frequency, Air China will operate the initial service with Boeing 777-200 aircraft, which has passenger seating for 305 or up to 440. The House of Representatives adopted a resolution in support for Air China's application on Friday. "The proposed service will enhance travel-related services between Beijing and Saipan through its direct connection and will further strengthen the local tourism industry," states the resolution, authored by Rep. Absalon Waki Jr.

Garment factory's shutdown causes couple's 'separation'

The shutdown of a garment factory in 2005 has caused a local employee to be "separated" from his wife and child due to his failure to pay utility billings. And for two years now without electricity and water supply, he is surviving alone in his wooden house in Afetnas using candles and rainwater. Joaquin Sablan Palacios, 49, and his wife Catalina, 30, used to live a comfortable life with their son while they were both working at Neo Fashion. With the factory's closure in July 2005, it took Palacios one year to find another job at a supermarket. Catalina couldn't get another job since then. After four months with no job, the couple couldn't afford to pay their power and water bills. As a result, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. cut their electricity and water supply.

PH mobile consular services next month on Saipan

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam will conduct mobile consular services on Saipan from Aug. 7 to 9 at a still unspecified venue.

The mobile consular services will be conducted in cooperation with the United Filipino Organization.

The Consulate General advises all interested in availing consular to prepare the following requirements:

PASSPORT APPLICATIONS

Requirements for renewal of green Philippine passport:

1. Accomplished ePassport Application form
2. Photocopy of data page of passport
3. Original passport
4. Payment of ePassport fee (\$60)

Requirements for renewal of brown/maroon Philippine passport

1. Accomplished ePassportApplicationform
2. Photocopy of data page of passport
3. Photo copy of birth certificate
4. Original passport
5. Payment of ePassport fee (\$60)

Quichocho asks court to sanction Nutting

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Attorney Ramon K. Quichocho argues that it should be lawyer Stephen Nutting who should be sanctioned for slandering and defaming him when he was still a judicial nominee.

In his and co-defendant Joaquin Q. Atalig’s reply in support of a motion to vacate or amend the court’s order, Quichocho asked the Superior Court to issue an order to show cause why Nutting should not be sanctioned for violating the ethics rules.

Nutting, as counsel for Japanese investors Shinji Fujie and Toshin Group International Inc., earlier this month asked the court to require Quichocho and attorney Robert H. Myers to show cause why they should not be held in contempt for making slanderous, false, and unethical attacks against Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Nutting stated that “rather than promoting the public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the Judiciary, Quichocho attempts to subvert and destroy it by slandering the reputation of a sitting judge through false and salacious innuendo based upon a morally corrupt editing of a statement taken out of context, purposely slanted, for an improper purpose.”

Nutting wants Quichocho and Myers sanctioned for their alleged violation of Rule 11 of the Commonwealth Rules of Civil Procedure and for violations of Rule 8.2(a) of the Model Rules of Professional Conduct.

Saipan Tribune learned Friday that Govendo will hear Nutting’s motion for sanctions on Sept. 3, 2013 at 9am.

In his and Atalig’s reply filed last week, Quichocho said he did not violate the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct 8.2, but Nutting did.

Assuming that all the Code of Judicial Conduct Canons apply to him because he was a judicial nominee when Govendo issued his memorandum opinion, then by Nutting’s logic

both Govendo and Nutting have ethical violations against him, Quichocho said.

The memorandum opinion refers to Govendo’s ruling on May 10, 2013, in which the judge found Quichocho to have induced landowner Atalig to violate public policy by filing false documents with the Commonwealth Recorder’s Office.

Quichocho said the court should recognize that Shinji Fujie and Toshin Group did not adequately oppose the merits of the motion, but that the opposition is more a game of character assassination against him, who, at the time was a nominee for a Superior Court associate judge position.

Quichocho said the court should strike and disregard the plaintiffs’ opposition and attacks against him and Myers regarding sanctions and ethics because it is irrelevant.

Quichocho said he and Myers did not attack Govendo as he and Atalig merely quoted the statements from the CNMI Supreme Court case.

Quichocho said the disturbing statement by Govendo, as far as they are concerned, is his “wish to get rid of the locals but [he] can’t.”

Quichocho said plaintiffs, however, argue that “[he] did not say that he had any bias against law-abiding locals and Filipinos.”

Quichocho said it does not matter as there are definitely Caucasian “perpetrators of domestic violence,” including other nationalities—not just “locals” and “Filipinos.”

“The fact, however, that only Filipino and local ‘criminals’ are singled out is a serious cause for concern given the attempt to inject biblical morality into a judicial ruling,” he said.

Quichocho asked Govendo to recuse himself from the case or in the alternative, vacate, alter, or amend the May 10, 2013 order.

He also asked the court to strike plaintiffs’ alleged irrelevant, immaterial, and scandalous arguments against him and Myers.

Requirements for lost Philippine passport

1. Accomplished ePassport application form
2. Photocopy of data page of passport (if available)
3. Photo copy of birth certificate
4. Police report
5. Notarized affidavit of loss (\$25)
6. Original passport
7. Payment of lost passport fee: \$90 for green/maroon or \$150 ePassport

In order to facilitate the express processing of ePassport applications, passport applicants are being asked to send scanned copies of these requirements (i.e., items 1 and 2 for green passport holders and items 1, 2, and 3 for holders of brown/maroon passports) to saipan.pcgagana@gmail.com starting June 24, 2013, up to July 5, 2013.

Applicants are advised to ensure that all items in the application form are answered fully and completely and that contact numbers are provided, as they will be informed of their schedule for biometrics capturing.

Due to the technical capacity of the Consulate General’s equipment, they will only accept the first 180 completed applications for the “pre-encoded applicants.”

If you do not receive an acknowledgement, it will not be included on the list. Wait for the announcement of the complete list of pre-encoded applicants through philippinesguam.org or Facebook account aganapcg@yahoo.com.

Applicants who are not able to submit scanned copies of the requirements will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. To avoid delays in the processing of applications, applicants are advised not to fold copies of the requirements.

The Consulate General stressed that priority will be given to those with expired or lost passports, senior citizens (65 years old and above), and persons with disabilities.

Applicants with expired passports may opt to apply for a limited validity (one year) green passport simultaneously with the ePassport. The fee for the green passport is \$50 in addition to the \$60 for the ePassport.

Those availing of the green passport will also be required to submit two 2” x 2” photos with white background.

Civil registry and notarial services

All applications for civil registry and notarial services will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Applicants are advised to prepare the originals and copies of the following documents:

Report of Birth (\$25)

1. Original birth certificate and five copies of original birth certificates
2. If applicable, original marriage certificate of parents and five copies
3. Valid passport of parents and five copies; if passport is expired, valid government issued ID and five copies
4. U.S. Naturalization Certificate of parent and five copies, if parent is already a U.S. citizen in the time of application
5. Affidavit of delayed registration of birth (\$25), if filed more than one month from birth of child
6. For illegitimate children using surname of father, affidavit to use surname of father (\$25)
7. Duly accomplished ROB form, signed in front of consular officer

Report of marriage (\$25)

1. Original marriage certificate and five copies

2. Original birth certificate of Filipino spouse and five copies
3. Valid passports of both parties and five copies each; if passport is expired, valid government issued ID and five copies
4. 2” x 2” photo (white background) of each of the spouses
5. For parties with previous marriage/s:
 - For U.S. citizens, final decree of divorce and five copies
 - For Filipino citizens, annotated marriage certificate from National Statistics Office showing details of annulment and five copies or judgment of Philippine court recognizing final decree of divorce issued by a foreign court
 - For widows/widower, death certificate of deceased spouse
6. Affidavit of delayed registration of marriage (\$25), if filed more than one month from celebration of marriage
7. For those whose spouses are non-Filipinos, duly accomplished CFO form
8. Duly accomplished ROM form signed in front of consular officer

Report of death (\$25)

1. Original death certificate and copies
2. Duly accomplished ROD form

Acknowledgements (SPA, general power of attorney, contracts), Jurat (affidavits)

1. Valid passport or government issued ID (i.e., driver’s license) of signatory and copy
2. Must sign document in front of consular officer
3. Payment of \$25 fee

For NBI clearance application (\$25)

1. Completely accomplished NBI Form (to be provided by the Philippine Consulate Team). The form must be brought to the local police station for fingerprinting. Applicants must ensure that the police officer taking the fingerprints must sign in the “Impressions Taken By” field.
2. One 2” x 2” photo (to be pasted on the form)
3. Original valid passport and two copies (data and signature page of the passport)

Authentication/verification of employment contracts

1. Job order
Attachments: USCIS approval, company license, passport of signatory (Employer)
2. Special Power of Attorney
Attachments: Company license, passport of signatory (Employer)
3. Recruitment Agreement Attachments: Company License, passport of signatory (Employer)
4. Individual or Group Employment Contract
Attachments: Company License, passport of signatory (Employer)

Following are the applicable fees for these services:

Document	Authentication Fee	DOLE Verification Fee
Job Order	\$25	\$10
Special Power of Attorney	\$25	\$10
Recruitment Agreement	\$25	\$30
Individual Contract	\$25	\$10
Group Contract	\$25	\$30

The Consulate General notes that all applicants for the above services will be required to photocopy the signed documents after processing.

For questions or clarifications regarding the mobile consular outreach, call the Consulate General at its toll free number (670) 682-2222. *(Saipan Tribune)*

Exercise Typhoon Pakyo ends; Navy organizes support scenario

By **CORWIN COLBERT**
Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class
Joint Region Public Affairs Office

SANTA RITA, Guam—U.S. Naval Base Guam kept its commitment to supporting service members during this year’s Exercise Typhoon Pakyo from June 17-21.

“Exercise Typhoon Pakyo is our annual typhoon preparedness and recovery exercise,” said Timothy Moon, NBG operations manager. “We use this time of the year to work with our [Department of Defense] partners and also work in conjunction with our local government partners to run through our

various checklist of preparation and also work with some events where we actually recover from damage from the typhoon and different scenarios that we encounter from post typhoons.”

While the operational portion of the exercise was simulated, a full-scale emergency family assistance center was assembled to showcase the post-disaster efforts of the Navy.

“EFAC is the emergency family assistance center and it is set up to support the military family with a large list of support mechanisms including administrative support, counseling support and legal support,”

Moon said.

This year, the center was staged at the Charles King Fitness Center on base as the building was perfect for compartmentalizing the many different services participating, including Fleet and Family Support Center, Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society, and other Navy services.

The center was a post-disaster component of the typhoon exercise which simulated steps that would be taken in a real-life situation, refining the skills of Joint Region Marianas, Andersen Air Force Base, NBG and Government of Guam personnel. The exercise also

educated civilians on the proper course of action island response teams would take in the event of a typhoon.

Religious Program Specialist 3rd Class Richard Torres, of NBG chapel, participated in the EFAC scenario and said he felt confident and at ease to see the thorough preparations that were made to protect and assist the warfighter and their families. “I feel so much better knowing that there are programs for sailors in trouble after natural disasters,” he said. “It is very important since I am over here by myself, I don’t have family support but I have support here.”

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIII, Issue No. 125

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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EDITORIAL

Immigration bill creates jobs, cuts deficit. So what is GOP waiting for?

"Secure the border" has become the new "Drill, baby, drill." For Republicans who want to live in a fact-free world and are afraid to rile the furthest right members of their party by daring to support comprehensive immigration legislation, focusing on border security is, well, a security blanket.

That's why Republicans facing re-election in 2016, such as Missouri's Sen. Roy Blunt, are going back to the old canard that there is no good time to talk about fixing the broken immigration system until the border is first secure.

Never mind that the border is more secure than at any time in its history.

Never mind that Congress has increased border agents, and fences and technology, and in the process has reduced border crossings from Mexico to the United States in several states.

And never mind that President Barack Obama has been more aggressive than his predecessors when it comes to deporting undocumented immigrants.

Just as facts didn't impress the drill, baby drill-team while the U.S. was drilling for more domestic oil than at any time in its history, facts don't deter opponents of immigration reform.

Oh, and one more "never mind": Never mind that building the sort of border fence that some Republican members of Congress are fixated on (hello, Mr. Blunt) would be so expensive that the deficit would skyrocket.

Which brings us to the state of debate over that Senate bill pushed by the bipartisan Gang of Eight. It ultimately would create a path to citizenship for 11 million undocumented workers already in the U.S. and improve the broken immigration system so that American companies can attract some of the foreign workers they need.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office just released a financial analysis of the Gang of Eight's comprehensive immigration bill. The gang includes Sen. Dick Durbin, an Illinois Democrat, and Sen. Marco Rubio, a Florida Republican.

The legislation reduces the deficit. By a lot.

The CBO estimates that even considering the costs in the bill for, yes, increased border security, it would reduce the deficit by \$175 billion between 2014 and 2023.

Remember when reducing the deficit was the GOP's holy grail? You only need to remember back to March.

At some point the Senate and House must realize that the numbers in the immigration bill add up to economic growth.

When about 8 million people in the country who aren't paying taxes start paying taxes, federal revenue increases dramatically. Also, the CBO estimates the bill will lead to a population increase of about 10 million permanent residents by 2023. That's 10 million people paying taxes, buying goods and services, feeding the economy.

The business community has long pushed for a fix to the broken immigration system because the businesses need both quality workers and new customers.

On Wednesday, the Senate wisely defeated an amendment to the immigration legislation from Blunt that would have required the Department of Homeland Security to have 100 percent monitoring capability along the Mexican border before the rest of the legislation would go into effect.

That's not a serious idea. It ignores the increased security already provided along the border.

It's time for Republicans to get off the fence, literally and figuratively, and do something serious to help the U.S. economy and

See IMMIGRATION on Next Page



Made in China

"The Best for the West" has been the quiet slogan of China's manufacturers engaged by Western outlets to produce consumer products that would last. My Mac laptop is assembled in China. The quality outfits I got from my Hawaii brother's wardrobe are boutique brands made in China. I have no complaints on their wear and tear.

Japan after WWII, and South Korea after the armistice hitched their economies to Uncle Sam's coattails, producing fineries and user-friendly electronics, until they draped the whole USA with the latest in fashion and gadgetry. The last decade brought factories along Zhongguo rivers, earning the Yuan a prominent position in the world's basket of currencies, and a sorry state of China rivers' ecology.

Yum corporation turned Yum equals Money. Based in Kentucky where we went to school mid-'60s shortly before the Colonel's chickens got deep fried, the Yum brand is now the biggest food chain in China. It decided two years ago to concentrate on its trio of KFC, Pizza Hut, and Taco Bell that undergirds China's growing girth.

China's culinary culture has a three-century history of imperial stir-fry and sauté. Yum decided, after establishing a solid base in Shanghai, to dot the landscape with finger lickin' good drumsticks, pizza, and taco. Could not get more global than that! Park Avenue skills and Wall Street savvy make revenue easily six times over operating expense. It is the first foreign food chain to open in Mongolia. For the 21st century, it will mine the rapidly Westernizing palate of the Ming and the Qing, and aims to dominate fast food service in many years to come.

Food, money, and housing are the three areas that get Chinese juices flowing.

Sale of food and beverages fuel the street level commerce. Any given day, snow, sleet, and rain, the street market manages to open, along with the stalls that proffer all and any menu configuration. Yum does the storefront operation, going sleepless in cities where factory workers shun the snooze for overtime. The traditional roundtable restaurant, well above my price range, continue to operate, while I jealously adjudge them to be more for status and show than in quieting the quivers of the taste buds. But sometimes, we get lucky with an unexpected social invite, and chance on a seasoned chef. But that comes at considerable cost.

Money. Many incense are burned on its altar. And why not? China has been exchanging currencies long before we were still bartering veggies for fish. China was in a savings mode until the government made it patriotic to spend beyond one's means. Following Uncle

By **JAIME VERGARA**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara is an ordained minister of the United Methodist Church and was pastor of Saipan Immanuel UMC at the second millenium's turn. He now writes from China.



Sam's footsteps where every soul is hocked to an average of \$10K indebtedness per head, the banks and credit is in place making the making of money from money becoming the preferred moneymaking venture. China also owns a trillion of Trea\$ury papers!

A diminutive acquaintance whose only child attends the university in Wuhan way down south of Dong Bei "to be as far as possible from mother" buys wardrobe from Milan and bags that go with them. She once showed me a fashionable bag that cost her the equivalent of my year's salary. Does she ever use it? Nope. It stays in the house as a decor item. She is afraid that if she uses it, someone will either rip it off her or steal its contents. Consequently, she carries valuable contract papers of million ¥ deals in a grocery plastic bag. Her business that made millions, way beyond what her milquetoast husband shuffling office papers draw, is usurious lending.

Now, she earns it in housing too. Funding construction work when the builders could not avail of bank credit but needs to replenish cash flow, she is in China's network of informal lenders.

Our acquaintance provided money for developers to procure iron for new buildings, and when they could not make payments, just got deeds to top floor units. She is now into real estate trading but since there is a glut of expensive units, she is bored to death shuffling mahjong tiles while flies are fanned away. Meanwhile, the huddled countryside masses that cheaply provide construction labor desperately need adequate but affordable housing.

The quirks that divide legal and illegal is big time. A young man died in a car accident recently. It was not his dying at a young age that outraged people. It was the fact that he was driving a \$270K Ferrari when his Dad is but a functionary receiving \$15K a year. One need not speculate too far as to where the mullah to afford the luxury came from.

Is the bubble going to burst? Overseas investors continue to patronize the housing market and with China's ability to sprout new towns in five-year cycles, taking the experience in partnership with builders in other continents' new developments zones, that boom will keep booming for a time to come.

Made in China has been turned into Made for the World!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Hineñgen Sensian Tunas

Ikuestion ni doku' gi señgsoñg siha: Man-mañgge i man-ma'gas yan haf' bidan niniha pot destrosiun ekonomian i tanu'? Haf na mampos man-silensiu gi halom didog na minasapet para un' manadan familia guine?

Klaru na finaisen ya ni unu sumeha kumuestiona: man-mañgge i man-ma'gas i tanu. Kase mangaige ha' lau ni unu gaige gi gima'!

I diskuidu mampos didog 'nai mattu hau gi gima' familia siha gi todú i señgsoñg. Man-hinehegse familia siha guaguan na apas kandet, apas guma' familia, mantension familia, sahyán familia, yan gaston hinemlu'.

Guaha mangai che'chu', lamegai lokue' mantai offisiu. I man-machochochu' sige ha maribaha i sueddon niha. I mantai che'chu' hagas mantai offisiu sa' taya' cho'chu' gi praihet.

Gi finu' un' prohímu: "Ti food stamps ha' nina' siñahu ya mahlauyu' nu este na modun lina'la' sa' ti este kreneansan mañainahu". Lau fuetsau fumifila i prohímu gi offisinan food stamps sa' ayu ha' esta 'nai siña ha prebeniye familiaña.

Makat pinadesen megai na familia ni man-mamamaisen man-mañgge man-ma'gas niha yan kau timalili'e i didog na pinadesen i tautau siha gi señgsoñg. Kase mangai chansa 'an marikonose pot para umana la'la' si Señora Economía ni gaige pa'gu gi ICU. Chatmiyu nanañga na estake gaige gi "morgue" 'nai para inna'e kela'la' sa' atrasau.

Yangin unu hau gi ma-elihe, mauleg unna'e animu umoppe finaisen i tautau siha ni un' representa gi todú atmos dibision hegsu' I Deni'. Obligasion miyu sumatba i hagas in' letke na asuntun linala' tautau siha gi señgsoñg.

Sueddon pineble

Guaha siñkuenta'i dos (52%) na tauta-ta mangaige sueddon niha gi papa' maseñala ni federat kumu sueddon mamoble. I sueddo siha i sigiente: Un' membro gi familia: \$11,490; Dos gi familia: \$15,510;

Who gets admitted to college?

At Oxford University in England, admissions criteria are clear. As the admissions director there told me recently, what matters is an applicant's potential to succeed in the subject she wants to study. A student wanting to study mathematics, say, must nail the math entrance exam, and in an interview show the potential to be an outstanding mathematician. Whether or not she is a concert violinist, the first in her family to go on to higher education, or the only female applicant in mathematics is irrelevant.

Oxford students believe in this system. They feel that the university is not responsible for making British society equal. But that isn't how things have worked in the United States for nearly 100 years—and perhaps not ever.

The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to rule this month on a case involving U.S. college admissions that could lead to significant changes. The lawsuit was initially brought by Abigail Fisher, a white student who was denied admission to the University of Texas and claims that she experienced racial discrimination. But it's important to understand the broader context of U.S. admissions policies when considering affirmative action.

Although we would like to believe that universities have always admitted students based on some objective definition of merit, in fact admissions criteria have changed dramatically over time. Until the 1920s, elite universities in the United States administered university exams to determine the "best" students. But even then, the exams had their biases—for example, they usually contained material such as Latin that was taught only in elite schools.

The exam system began to change after Ivy League schools became alarmed at the number of Jewish students applying and scoring

Kuatu gi familia: \$23,550.

Konsidera ya magtos pagamienton man-ritirau, siempre ensegi-das kahulu' mas ke 52 pot sientu tautau-ta ni gumagana entalu' seru yan nukeru. I figura klaru ha apupunta na mampos chafleg i kinalamten ekonomian iya Marianas.

Mas ke sais mit (6,000) mantai che'chu' ya esta pa'gu megai mantai offisiu. Gi mismu tiempu mampos chafleg kinalamten i praihe 'sino bisnis 'nai mas hasan cho'chu' para i tautau-ta. Estague' buente megai gi señgsoñg siha man-mamamaisen man-mañgge man-ma'gas iya Marianas.

Te'ug na asunto ya soluke siña in' eppe i kuestion gi hilu' antau na prinipone para in' adelanta i sumen malañgu na ekonomia, kase uttimu suspirus lokue' tetminon miyu na biahe.

Difirensia gi usun liñguahe

Ti megai man-lagse' gi tinaitai finu' Chamorro. Maseha kulan lagse' gi konbetsasion, i uttimu eskalera (sensura) gaige gi mañgge' finu' Chamorro. Hafa sessu i difirensia?

Achog konbetsasion, ti megai lokue' muna' dañá parehu haf' hinassoña yan i palabra ni malalagnos gi sikosña. 'Nos kuantos ha' hu tuñgu' mangai nina' siña nu este na abilidat. Los dimas, puru chukan siso' amaka.

I mañgge' inembrarasa organisasion materiát gi uttimu presentasion. Debi un' tuge' gi mas ñahlalañg (simple) na liñguahe kosake siña makomprende achog siete gradu na estudiante. Yangin ti un' komple este na patte gi tinige'mu, pues hagu ha' tumuñgu' haf' un' tuge'. Lastima!

Mauleg ta komprende na este i para un' lagse' mangge', taya otu ha nesessita ke para un' fañgge' diariu. Ni kuantu na abisu yan leblun mañgge' ti un' danche mañgge' soluke un' tuge' papa' haf' gaige gi hinassomu. Debi un' fañgge' diariu para un' lagse' mañgge'!

Lokue', i gaseteru ayu ha' siña hana' halom gi ripotña haf'

well on the tests. At that point, elite schools began to shift their definitions of "merit." Columbia University led the way by introducing "character" as something to be considered in admissions decisions. This amorphous quality was said to include personality traits such as manliness and leadership ability. In order to judge character, the universities asked for photos and letters of recommendation and, in some cases, conducted interviews with applicants.

During the 1960s, this flexible understanding of merit started to shift. No longer used to exclude Jews, it began being used to address the notable underrepresentation of black students on campus.

Today, selective universities in the United States consider a range of attributes beyond academics in making admissions decisions. These include an applicant's extracurricular activities, athletic prowess, hardships overcome, legacy status and race. In my research at elite American universities today, I have found that undergraduates are quite comfortable with these flexible notions of merit. They express a belief that racially diverse campuses are necessary to their training as future citizens and leaders in our globalized world. And they also support other examples of flexibility in admissions, including athletic recruiting and preferences for the children of alumni. Athletes, they argue, contribute to a fun campus life and demonstrate merit in athletics, while legacy admissions bring funds to the university that can potentially contribute to scholarships for more disadvantaged students.

Since long before Abigail Fisher was born, university admissions policies in the United States have been highly subjective, responding to the desires and needs of society and the academic institution itself. Race-based affirmative action is a part of the picture, and it symbolizes a deep commitment on the part of colleges and universi-

law in the CNMI? Why was the CNMI judicial system tightlipped relating to the Senate resolution? Does the CNMI judicial system have no respect for the CNMI Senate or its existence? It is evident based on the above incident that our judicial system is unfair and not impartial in Mr. Buckingham's case. Why was it a confidential matter when Mr. Buckingham's allegedly unethical behavior was discovered? It looks like our judicial system has double standards and the people of the CNMI will not stand aside.

We need to incorporate a Bar Association within our Constitution relating to our judicial system that will be transparent and has an oversight entity to keep it in check. We don't need a bar that would write and amend its own bylaws without the approval or consent of the chief justice or the CNMI Supreme Court. Upon adoption by the association, as provided above, the amended bylaws shall be submitted to the CNMI Supreme Court for its approval. Such amended bylaws shall be deemed approved and in effect if no action is taken within 60 days of submission to the CNMI Supreme Court.

Also, based on CNMI Public Law 6-25 Section 3403, the CNMI

By **JOHN DELROSARIO**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

masusede. Maprohibe pumatte gi estoria ni ha tutuge'. Mafanana'an "straight news" reporting. Ayu ha' siña un' ripot haf' masusede, manu, fecha, haye sumusede, haf' taimanu na masusede kontodu sa' haf' na masusede gi hilu' faktu. Manu gi entre este siha na kuestion u fofu' na gaige na mau'udai gi asunto.

Pa'gu i para un' fañgge' opiñion (taimanu un' tataitai guine na pahina), sahñge matuge'ña. Lau gi todú pot todú, debi u disiente yan antau tinige'mu. Ti todú u fañgonfotme ni opiñionhu ya libra hau mañgge' para un' apunta papa' haf' hinassomu gi hilu' madiskute. Muñga malabla i petsona fuera ke para in' abiba i dinanche na presentasion. Sotta ya i mananaitai u fatinas disisioña haye gai puntu mas propiu.

Ti hu ekspepekta na todus u fañgonfotme ni opiñionhu. Poresu na hu sosoyu' na 'an guaha puntomu ni mauleg ta tuñgu' todus, librea hau umapunta huyufñg haf' hinassomu. Sañgan dibuenamente puntomu sin un' aminasa i tautau petsonatmente. Todú mangai hinassu ayu mina' sumen magofyu' 'an ta huñgog maseha dididi' haf' hinasson miyu gi asunto-ta siha.

Maseha ti umakonfotma hit ideu, lau estaya tana' oppan puntota para todus. Este na etsisiu muna' ma-establelese inakomprende maseha ti parehu opinion. Naturat este na patte gi inadiñgan papa' sisteman demokrasiya. Ti hu hasñgon, lau gaigeyu' gi un' banda para bai' pulan haf' humahalom gi sagua' linahyan. Sen mas, Si Yuus Maase'!

By **NATASHA KUMAR WARIKOO**

Los Angeles Times



Natasha Kumar Warikoo is an assistant professor at Harvard Graduate School of Education and the author of Balancing Acts: Youth Culture in the Global City. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

ties to the pursuit of racial justice in a country plagued by extreme racial inequality. And it's hard to argue the programs are no longer necessary. Black Americans are still more than twice as likely to be poor as white Americans; black children are more likely to attend underperforming, racially segregated schools than white children; and whites with a criminal record are more likely to receive a callback on job applications than blacks with no criminal record.

More than 50 years ago, British sociologist Michael Young coined the term "meritocracy." He intended the term to have negative connotations, referring to a dystopia in which the elite use notions of merit to justify and maintain their status across generations. He portrayed a future in which promotion, pay and school admissions would be used to reward elites for their class-based cultural know-how rather than for qualities attainable by anyone in society.

If the Supreme Court ruling in the Fisher case bans the consideration of factors that promote racial equality and justice in admissions decisions, but allows universities to continue considering other kinds of non-academic "merit" that increase inequality, we will be one step closer to the kind of dysfunctional "meritocracy" Young envisioned.

Bar Association has no business making its own rules and it should be given to the CNMI Legislature to protect the people of the CNMI. It is a privilege to practice law in the CNMI.

Segundo Castro

Marpo Valley, Tinian

IMMIGRATION

From Page 10

improve the lives for millions of people living in America yearning to be free.

Pass the comprehensive immigration reform and, as President Ronald Reagan did more than two decades ago, send a signal to the rest of the world that the shining city on the hill is once again open for business.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Code of silence






Finally, the CNMI Superior Court reissued the arrest warrant for our former chief executive. Can the people of the CNMI continue to rely in our judicial system? We remember the ARRA fiasco and the whole mess that our government created for the people of the island chain. The former attorney general was implicated for numerous alleged violations of the CNMI Ethic Rules and Ethics in Public Contracting.

Based on the U.S Department of Interior's Office of Inspector General Report, the 17th CNMI Senate drafted a Senate Resolution (S.R. 12-62) for the CNMI Bar Association to investigate then attorney general Edward Buckingham for ethical violations regarding his approval of the CNMI ARRA management sole-source contract. We the people of the CNMI want to know what became of the Senate resolution. Why was Buckingham not disbarred from practicing

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.
▲89° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼81
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼76
Yap	Showers	▲90 ▼78
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲86 ▼79
Pohnpei	Sunny	▲86 ▼78
Kosrae	Sunny	▲86 ▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲85 ▼80

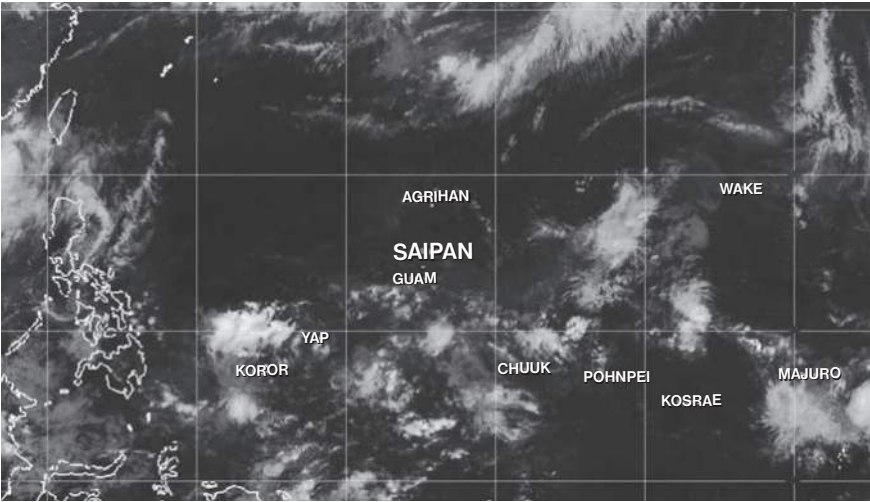
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲60 ▼54
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲94 ▼68
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼82
Honolulu	Sunny	▲84 ▼72
London	Partly Cloudy	▲63 ▼48
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲75 ▼62
Manila	Thundershowers	▲92 ▼80
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲59 ▼44
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼79
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼71
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲83 ▼70
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲63 ▼47
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲79 ▼70
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲75 ▼62
Salem	Rain	▲66 ▼58
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲62 ▼56
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲82 ▼68
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲78 ▼69
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲84 ▼73

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
3:57 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet	
8:54 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet	
4:16 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet	
11:12 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2013

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough northeastward extends from 6N130E to a circulation located between Palau and Yap near 8N136E and continues to south of Guam near 11N146E. Scattered showers and thunderstorms can be found west of Yap between 8N and 11N from 131E to 137E and south of Palau between 4N and 6N from 130E to 135E. Low-level convergence south and east of the trough is producing scattered showers between the equator and 3N from 134E to 139E and between 3N and 9N from 141E to 147E. A surface trough located east of Chuuk stretching from 6N154E to 11N155E is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 7N and 11N from 152E to 156E. Low-level convergence south of the trough is generating scattered showers south of Chuuk between 2N and 7N from 149E to 153E. A second surface trough extends from 7N163E to 11N165E and is producing scattered and isolated thunderstorms north of Kosrae between 8N and 12N from 162E to 172E. A third surface trough stretches from 3N170E to a circulation located near 4N173E to 7N178E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms covers a large portion of the Marshall Islands between 2N and 8N from 168E to 180. An upper-level low is located east of the Mariana Islands near 19N156E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found between 13N and 19N from 156E to 160E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Wednesday	5:49 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:49 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:32 PM	7:24 AM
Wednesday	9:23 PM	8:27 AM
Thursday	10:11 PM	9:27 AM
Friday	10:55 PM	10:24 AM
Saturday	11:38 PM	11:18 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS**
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS**
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI**
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE**
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN**
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 23, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5062 4:50am 5:40am 1, 3, 5 UA5068 8:35am 9:25am Daily UA5074 11:20am 12:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5076 3:10pm 4:00pm Daily UA5078 6:55pm 7:45pm Daily UA5072 9:45pm 10:35pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA 5069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5073 10:00am 10:50am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 UA5075 1:45pm 2:35pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5077 5:35pm 6:25pm Daily UA5079 8:20pm 9:10pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:05am 8:45am Daily DL297 4:35pm 7:25pm Daily	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5062 3:45am 4:20am 1, 3, 5 UA5038 11:15am 11:50am 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:05pm Daily DL288 8:15pm 12:50am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ604 3:30pm 6:55pm Daily	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:05pm 1:55am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 8:50am 2:20pm Daily OZ605 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ605 8:15pm 1:45am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU764 4:10am 8:00am 1, 5	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 1, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU763 7:55pm 3:10am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV) SYL9950 6:40pm 1:30am+1 7	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO) XF1734 4:15pm 10:30pm 4 Every other week eff May 16	KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN SYL9949 12:45pm 5:20pm 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:20am 11:05am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:50am 11:05am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:35am 9:55am 6 via GUM UA5062/191 4:50am 9:55am 3 via GUM DL287/173 6:05am 10:05pm Daily via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:35am 4:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM US5074/PR111 11:20am 4:35pm 1, 5, 7 via GUM UA5076/183 3:10pm 8:45pm 2, 5 via GUM UA5076/183 3:10pm 8:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:30pm 10:45pm Daily via ICN	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN PR110/UA5072 7:55am 6:25pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 8:00am 12:50am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 10:55am 6:25pm 3, 6 via GUM UA190/5079 10:55am 9:10pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:15pm 1:45am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ704/603 11:45pm 2:20pm Daily via ICN UA184/5071 11:35pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:20am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:50am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5076/147 3:10pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM OZ604/745 3:30pm 10:40pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:10pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:10pm 1:45am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 10:45pm 8:05am+1 1, 5 via GUM UA180/5071 10:50pm 8:05am+1 3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 1750	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Promise of price cut on hospital bills is in limbo

WASHINGTON (AP)—Huge list prices charged by hospitals are drawing increased attention, but a federal law meant to limit what the most financially vulnerable patients can be billed doesn't seem to be making much difference.

A provision in President Barack Obama's health care overhaul says most hospitals must charge uninsured patients no more than what people with health insurance are billed.

The goal is to protect patients from medical bankruptcy, a



In this photo taken Wednesday, June 5, 2013, Justin Farman, a nursing student from Watertown in upstate New York, poses for a portrait at his Watertown apartment.

Going without health insurance is a calculated risk taken by many young people starting out their careers. Farman, 26, said the \$120 his employer charged monthly for premiums was too much for his budget. Besides, he was in good shape and an avid weightlifter. But months of deep tiredness and unexplained weight loss led him to consult doctors, and he was eventually diagnosed with lymphoma.

Treatment at Upstate University Hospital in Syracuse was successful, but Farman faced more than \$54,000 in medical bills, between the hospital and doctors.

"After I went into remission, the bills started to roll in," said Farman. The hospital did not tell him that financial assistance might be available, Farman said.

He had to fend off collection agencies. "That's not too fun," he added.

A spokesman for Upstate said the federal fair pricing law does not appear to apply to the hospital because it is publicly owned and not incorporated as a nonprofit under federal law. Spokesman Darryl Geddes said he could not discuss individual cases, but the hospital does not decline care to anyone based on the individual's ability to pay. Upstate maintains a financial assistance program that complies with state law, he added.

Part way through his treatment, Farman was able to get on Medicaid. With the help of a community agency, he also applied for assistance under New York law to help pay for his medical care during the period he was uninsured. On Friday, he received a letter saying his application had been approved and his debts would be greatly reduced.

Such discounts should be taken up front, advocates say.

Congress needs to take a second look at the federal law, says University of Southern California health policy professor Glenn Melnick.

As written, the law leaves it up to hospitals to determine which uninsured people qualify for discounted bills, and that could create a whole new set of disparities.

"One hospital could say it applies to people at 100 percent of the poverty line, and another could say 200 percent," Melnick explained. He called the enforcement provisions were "very weak."

A California law could serve as a model, he said. It defines the patients who qualify for assistance as those who are uninsured or making at or below 350 percent of the federal poverty line—\$40,215 for an individual and \$82,425 for a family of four. Those patients cannot be charged more than the hospital would receive from Medicare.

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE

McClatchy-Tribune News Service



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Seeking 'tattletale' could backfire

QUESTION: I recently made the mistake of including an inappropriate person on a group email. Someone tattled about this to my boss, who sternly warned me to never do it again. I'm not sure who the tattletale was, but I suspect three people. Two of the suspects are my co-workers, and the third is a manager on my boss's level.

I need to find out who did this to me. Both co-workers have denied any involvement, though I'm not sure I believe them. The manager can be very prickly, so I have not yet spoken to her. Would it be appropriate to approach her in a professional manner and nicely ask whether she told my boss about this error?

ANSWER: Wanting to know who turned you in is perfectly understandable. But like many normal human reactions, this impulse is not particularly helpful. Therefore, the answer to your question is no, you should not interrogate the prickly manager about her discussions with your boss.

Despite your strong desire to ferret out the truth, you actually do not need to know who reported your mistake. Continuing to obsess about the tattler's identity will just waste emotional energy and create unnecessary drama.

If you had been falsely accused, that would be a different matter. But since you did make an error, the appropriate response is to assure your manager that it will never happen again and then move on.

You should also consider the very real possibility that your basic assumption may be incorrect. Your boss could easily have learned of this event through normal conversation, with no tattling involved at all.

■ ■ ■

Q: Although I believe I deserve a raise, I'm not sure whether I should ask for one. I work for a large nonprofit organization and have been here a little over six months. When I was hired, my salary was slightly lower than I had requested. I have a terrific attitude and the ability to greatly exceed what is expected of me. Is it too soon to ask for an increase?

A: Well, that depends. Before making this request, you need to consider several factors, starting with your employer's pay practices. While some organizations would never grant an increase during the first year, others have more liberal policies. Your human resources manager can provide guidance in this area.

If six-month increases are permitted, the next consideration is the financial health of your organization. Many nonprofits have gone through tough times recently. If layoffs have occurred or budgets are extremely tight, your request could appear self-centered.

You should also solicit some performance feedback to be sure that management agrees with your favorable self-assessment. And you need to consider whether your particular boss will view such an early request as admirably assertive or premature and pushy.

Finally, any request for a raise should always be supported by a valid business case. Are you underpaid compared to others? Have you made some truly outstanding contributions? Simply saying that you deserve more money is not sufficient. You will have to present some facts.

problem that will not go away next year when Obama's law expands coverage for millions.

Because the Affordable Care Act doesn't cover everyone, many people will remain uninsured. Also, some who could sign up are expected to procrastinate even though the law requires virtually everyone to have health insurance.

Consumer groups that lobbied for a "fair pricing" provision are disappointed. A university researcher who's studied the issue says the government doesn't seem to be doing much enforcement, and at least one state, Colorado, enacted a stricter rule since the federal statute passed.

Critics say the law has several problems:

- It applies only to nonprofit institutions, which means about 40 percent of all community hospitals are exempted. By comparison, the Colorado law also covers for-profit hospitals.

- It lacks a clear formula for hospitals to determine which uninsured patients qualify for financial aid, and how deep a discount is reasonable. A Cali-

fornia law spells out such a formula for that state's hospitals.

- More than three years after Obama signed his law, the Internal Revenue Service has not issued final rules explaining how hospitals should comply with the federal billing limits. Delay doesn't signal a high priority.

"We still hear the same stories about patients who are being sent to (debt) collection," said Jessica Curtis, director of the hospital accountability project at Community Catalyst, a Boston-based advocacy group that led the push for billing limitations. "It's the same behavior that we were seeing before the passage of the Affordable Care Act."

The Obama administration responds that fair pricing is the law of the land, and that hospitals are expected to comply even if the IRS has not finalized the rules. The agency has begun compliance reviews, a spokeswoman said.

The health law "helps to protect patients from hidden and high prices and unreasonable collection actions," said Treas-

ury Department spokeswoman Sabrina Siddiqui.

The American Hospital Association says it urges members to limit charges to the uninsured in line with the federal law. But neither the administration nor the industry has statistics on how many hospitals are doing so.

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius recently took on hospital pricing policies when she released federal data that document wide disparities in what different hospitals charge for the same procedures.

Most patients never face those list prices because private insurers negotiate lower rates and government programs such as Medicare get to set what they will pay. The burden of paying list price falls on the uninsured and people with skimpy policies. It's unclear that the federal requirements are helping at all.

Justin Farman, a nursing student from Watertown, in upstate New York, was diagnosed with a blood cancer last fall, when he was uninsured.

Hostess: Twinkies to return to shelves July 15

NEW YORK (AP)—Hostess is betting on a sweet comeback for Twinkies when they return to shelves next month.

The company that went bankrupt after an acrimonious fight with its unionized workers last year is back up and running under new owners and a leaner structure. It says it plans to have Twinkies and other snack cakes back on shelves starting July 15.

Based on the outpouring of nostalgia sparked by its demise, Hostess is expecting a blockbuster return next month for Twinkies and other sugary treats, such as CupCakes and Donettes. The company says the cakes will taste the same but that the boxes will now bear the

tag line "The Sweetest Comeback In The History Of Ever."

"A lot of impostor products have come to the market while Hostess has been off the shelves," says Daren Metropoulos, a principal of the investment firm Metropoulos & Co., which teamed up with Apollo Global Management to buy a variety of Hostess snacks.

Hostess Brands Inc. was struggling for years before it filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization in early 2012. Workers blamed the troubles on years of mismanagement, as well as a failure of executives to invest in brands to keep up with changing tastes. The company said it was weighed down by higher pension and

medical costs than its competitors, whose employees weren't unionized.

To steer it through its bankruptcy reorganization, Hostess hired restructuring expert Greg Rayburn as its CEO. But Rayburn ultimately failed to reach a contract agreement with its second largest union. In November, he blamed striking workers for crippling the company's ability to maintain normal production and announced that Hostess would liquidate.

The shuttering triggered a rush on Hostess snack cakes, with stores selling out of the most popular brands within hours.

About 15,000 unionized workers lost their jobs in the aftermath.

Nation

WikiLeaks: Snowden going to Ecuador to seek asylum

WASHINGTON (AP)—Admitted leaker Edward Snowden took flight Sunday in evasion of U.S. authorities, seeking asylum in Ecuador and leaving the Obama administration scrambling to determine its next step in what became a game of diplomatic cat-and-mouse.

The former National Security Agency contractor and CIA technician fled Hong Kong and arrived at the Moscow airport, where he planned to spend the night before boarding an Aeroflot flight to Cuba. Ecuador's Foreign Minister Ricardo Patino said his government received an asylum request from Snowden, and the anti-secrecy group WikiLeaks said it would help him.

"He goes to the very countries that have, at best, very tense relationships with the United States," said Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla., adding that she feared Snowden would trade more U.S. secrets for asylum. "This is not going to play out well for the national security interests of the United States."

The move left the U.S. with limited options as Snowden's itinerary took him on a tour of what many see as anti-American capitals. Ecuador in particular has rejected the United States' previous efforts at cooperation, and has been helping WikiLeaks founder, Julian Assange, avoid prosecution by allowing him to stay at its embassy in London.

Snowden gave The Guardian and The Washington Post documents disclosing U.S. surveillance programs that collect



This photo provided by *The Guardian* in London shows Edward Snowden, who worked as a contract employee at the National Security Agency.

vast amounts of phone records and online data in the name of foreign intelligence, but often sweep up information on American citizens. Officials have the ability to collect phone and Internet information broadly but need a warrant to examine specific cases where they believe terrorism is involved.

Snowden had been in hiding for several weeks in Hong Kong, a former British colony with a high degree of autonomy from mainland China. The United States formally sought Snowden's extradition from Hong Kong but was rebuffed; Hong Kong officials said the U.S. request did not fully comply with their laws.

The Justice Department rejected that claim, saying its request met all of the requirements of the extradition treaty between the U.S. and Hong Kong.

During conversations last week, including a phone call Wednesday between Attorney General Eric Holder and Hong

Kong Secretary for Justice Rimsky Yuen, Hong Kong officials never raised any issues regarding sufficiency of the U.S. request, a Justice spokesperson said.

A State Department official said the United States was in touch through diplomatic and law enforcement channels with countries that Snowden could travel through or to, reminding them that Snowden is wanted on criminal charges and reiterating Washington's position that Snowden should only be permitted to travel back to the U.S.

Those officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the case.

The Justice Department said it would "pursue relevant law enforcement cooperation with other countries where Mr. Snowden may be attempting to travel."

Russia's state ITAR-Tass news agency and Interfax cited an unnamed Aeroflot airline official as saying Snowden was on the plane that landed Sunday

5 things to know about NSA leaker Snowden

WASHINGTON (AP)—Edward Snowden, the National Security Agency contractor behind the disclosures of the U.S. government's sweeping surveillance programs, left Hong Kong on Sunday and was seeking asylum in Ecuador. Five things to know about his admitted leaker and his future:

1. THE LEAK: Snowden disclosed surveillance programs that collect vast amounts of online data and email, sometimes sweeping up information on ordinary American citizens. Officials have the ability to collect phone and Internet information broadly but need a warrant to examine specific cases where they believe terrorism is involved. The revelation sparked debate about government surveillance and post-Sept. 11 civil liberties.

2. THE LEAKER: Since revealing himself as the principal source for reports in *The Guardian* and *The Washington Post*, Snowden had been in hiding in Hong Kong. The United States had sought his extradition but officials in

Hong Kong rejected that, saying the U.S. petition didn't pass muster. The former CIA operative and NSA contractor has had his passport revoked, although that alone was unlikely to thwart Snowden's travel if he could find a friendly government to host him.

3. THE EVASION: Before the first stories were published, Snowden left Hawaii for Hong Kong. While there, he continued speaking to reporters and disclosing other details. This weekend, he left Hong Kong with advisers from WikiLeaks, the anti-secrecy group that helped disclose a trove of diplomatic cables that embarrassed Washington. He is said to have arrived in Moscow but did not leave the airport. His allies say he is en route to Ecuador, which has an extradition treaty with the United States but permits exemptions for political asylum. Ecuador's embassy in London has housed and protected WikiLeaks' founder Julian Assange.

4. THE DIPLOMACY: The United States unsuccessfully sought cooperation

from Hong Kong to extradite Snowden to the United States to face criminal charges. Instead, Snowden shuttled to Russia, with which the United States does not have an extradition treaty. His potential next stops were just as dicey for the United States: Cuba, Venezuela and Ecuador. All three have extradition treaties with the United States, but none are strong allies. U.S. lawmakers said Sunday there would be consequences for countries that harbor Snowden.

5. THE FUTURE: The disclosures to this point have been damaging but the journalists who have published them have said they limited the scope to protect national security. Snowden's cooperation with WikiLeaks could signal a new chapter in those disclosures. The chairwoman of the Senate Intelligence Committee said she has been told Snowden has as many as 200 documents and another lawmaker suggested Snowden had received asylum in Ecuador in exchange for disclosing more information.

afternoon in Moscow.

Upon his arrival, Snowden did not leave Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport. One explanation could be that he wasn't allowed; a U.S. official said Snowden's passport had been revoked, and special permission from Russian authori-

ties would have been needed.

Caitlin Hayden, a spokeswoman for the White House's National Security Council, said, "Given our intensified cooperation after the Boston marathon bombings and our history of working with Russia on law enforcement matters—including

returning numerous high-level criminals back to Russia at the request of the Russian government—we expect the Russian government to look at all options available to expel Mr. Snowden back to the U.S. to face justice for the crimes with which he is charged."

Man completes tightrope walk near Grand Canyon

LITTLE COLORADO RIVER GORGE, Ariz. (AP)—Aerialist Nik Wallenda completed a tightrope walk that took him a quarter mile over the Little Colorado River Gorge in northeastern Arizona on Sunday.

Wallenda performed the stunt on a 2-inch-thick steel cable, 1,500 feet above the river on the Navajo Nation near the Grand Canyon. He took just more than 22 minutes, pausing and crouching twice as winds whipped around him and the rope swayed.

"Thank you Lord. Thank you for calming that cable, God," he said about 13 minutes into the walk.

Wallenda didn't wear a harness and stepped slowly and steady throughout, murmuring prayers to Jesus almost constantly along the way. He jogged and hopped the last few steps.



The event was broadcast live on the Discovery Channel.

Winds blowing across the gorge had been expected to be

around 30 mph. Wallenda told Discovery after the walk that the winds were at times "unpredictable" and that dust had ac-

cumulated on his contact lenses.

"It was way more windy, and it took every bit of me to stay focused the entire time," he said.

The 34-year-old Sarasota, Fla., resident is a seventh-generation high-wire artist and is part of the famous "Flying

Wallendas" circus family—a clan that is no stranger to death-defying feats.

His great-grandfather, Karl Wallenda, fell during a performance in Puerto Rico and died at the age of 73. Several other family members, including a cousin and an uncle, have perished while performing wire walking stunts.

Nik Wallenda grew up performing with his family and has dreamed of crossing the Grand Canyon since he was a teenager. Sunday's stunt comes a year after he traversed Niagara Falls earning a seventh Guinness world record.

Wallenda wore a microphone and two cameras, one that looked down on the dry Little Colorado River bed and one that faced straight ahead. His leather shoes with an elk-skin sole helped him keep a grip on the steel cable as he moved across.

Asia

Afghanistan govt reaffirms support for peace talks

Gunmen abduct 2 sisters in southern Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Suspected al-Qaida-linked gunmen have abducted two Filipino sisters who traveled to a dangerous mountainous area in the southern Philippines to work on a film about Muslim farmers, police and military officials said Sunday.



Linda Bansil



Nadjoua Bansil

Nadjoua and Linda Bansil were taken by about 10 gunmen Saturday in Sulu province's Patikul town where they filmed coffee farmers. At least three companions of the sisters, who were in a van, fled on a motorcycle or were left behind by the gunmen, Patikul police chief Senior Inspector Christopher Gutierrez said.

Police were trying to locate the gunmen and their victims, Gutierrez said.

"We're trying to track down the abductors and the victims and possibly launch a rescue operation with the help of the military," Gutierrez said by telephone.

Marine Col. Jose Cenabre said the gunmen belong to the Abu Sayyaf, a group notorious for ransom kidnappings, beheadings and other atrocities, but Gutierrez said police were still checking if the abductors were from an allied group of young gunmen behind several kidnappings.

Gutierrez said the women, who were guests of a Sulu-based sultan, did not coordinate with police before their trip to the dangerous Patikul hinterlands. They reportedly visited Mount Sinumaan, a rugged mountainous area where the Abu Sayyaf maintains a camp, and were on their way back to the provincial capital of Jolo when they were stopped by the gunmen.

The sisters were born in Algeria from an Algerian mother and a Filipino father but grew up in the Philippines, where they have been involved in recent years in producing independent films. One of their works,

a short film about the travails of impoverished Filipino sea gypsies, has won praise, according to a close relative who spoke on condition of anonymity for security reasons.

Abu Sayyaf militants have been holding a number of hostages in the jungles of Sulu, including two European bird watchers and a Jordanian journalist who were kidnapped last year. The militants are active in Sulu, a predominantly Muslim province about 950 kilometers (590 miles) south of Manila, where they have survived in their jungle encampments despite years of U.S.-backed Philippine offensives.

Veteran Jordanian TV journalist Baker Atyani and his two Filipino crewmen were kidnapped last June by Abu Sayyaf militants whom they had sought to interview in Patikul's jungles. His two Filipino companions were freed in February but Atyani, who gained prominence for interviewing Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan a few months before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, remains in captivity, police say.

Bird watchers Ewold Horn of the Netherlands and Lorenzo Vinciguerra of Switzerland are also believed to be held in Patikul by the Abu Sayyaf, police say.

Meanwhile, about six gunmen seized teacher Alrasid Rojas in a predominantly Muslim coastal village in southern Zamboanga city late Saturday and took him away by speedboat. Government forces launched a search in nearby areas, including Basilan island, where Abu Sayyaf gunmen have a presence, police said Sunday.

Panda gives birth to twins in China

BEIJING (AP)—A giant panda has given birth to twins, the first pair of the endangered species born in the world this year, according to a wildlife center in southwest China.

The China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda in Sichuan province said the panda named Haizi gave birth to the two cubs 10 minutes apart on Saturday.

Staffers at the center, which is part of the Wolong Nature

Reserve, say one cub is a female and weighs 79.2 grams (2.79 ounces). Haizi has yet to release the other cub from her embrace.

Giant pandas have difficulty breeding, with females fertile for only two or three days a year.

Pandas number about 1,600 in the wild, where they are critically endangered due to poaching and development. More than 300 live in captivity, mostly in China's breeding programs.

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghanistan's government reaffirmed support Sunday for possible talks with its Taliban foes, but demanded full explanations on how the group was allowed to raise its flag in Qatar and display other symbols that have stalled the U.S.-led effort.

The ongoing dispute over the Taliban compound in Doha—which the Afghan government said appeared as something akin to an embassy in exile instead of a political outpost when it opened—underscore the extreme difficulties in just trying to launch dialogue after nearly 12 years of war in Afghanistan.

On Sunday, Taliban spokesman, Shaheen Suhail, reasserted the Islamic movement's dismay over the controversy and made it clear that the Taliban had made no offers or concessions following U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry's warning a day earlier that their newly opened office could be forced to close if the spat remained unresolved.

The Afghan peace process, which has made little headway since it began several years ago, is hobbled by distrust among the major players, with the Taliban steadfastly refusing to

talk to the Afghan government. While talks with the Taliban remained stalled, there are signs of increasing efforts to get them back on track. U.S.-backed talks broke down nearly two years ago in a dispute over the release of five Taliban detainees held in U.S. custody at a military prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

With Afghan presidential elections and the withdrawal of most foreign combat troops looming in 2014, the long-stalled Afghan peace process has taken on added urgency. The Taliban have refused to negotiate with Afghan President Hamid Karzai's government, saying the U.S. holds effective control in Afghanistan, but the Americans are hoping to pave the way for talks between the two sides to begin before pulling out most of its forces.

Militants, meanwhile, persisted with their campaign of violence.

A roadside bomb killed seven Afghan national policemen around midday in the central province of Oruzgan, said district official Faiz Mohammad.

Two foreign troops also were killed in roadside bomb attacks Sunday in eastern Afghanistan,

the NATO-led coalition announced, without providing further details.

The Obama administration said last week that the talks would begin with bilateral meetings between the Americans and Taliban representatives "in a few days," then eventually extend to include the Afghan government.

However, the Taliban's use of its old flag and a sign bearing the name of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, which the movement used during its five-year rule that ended in 2001 with the U.S.-led invasion, at Tuesday's office opening in the Qatari capital brought sharp complaints across all party lines in Afghanistan.

The main U.S. envoy trying to spearhead the talks, James Dobbins, met with Qatari officials in Doha and planned to travel to Kabul on Monday in apparent bids to shuttle diplomacy.

Kerry used a stop in Qatar on Saturday to urge the Taliban to make good faith efforts to open talks and begin what he called the "difficult" road ahead. He also warned the Taliban may have to close their office if they don't negotiate in good faith.

Under pressure from Qatar, the Taliban lowered the flag and

removed the sign.

In comments made hours before Kerry arrived in Doha on Saturday, Suhail had urged all sides to try to move the peace process forward and said negotiations were the way to a peaceful end to the conflict in his homeland. He said members of the Islamic movement are still having an internal discussion over whether to keep the flag lowered and rename their office the "Political Bureau of the Taliban Afghan in Doha," approved by both the U.S. and Qatar prior to Tuesday's official opening.

Security was boosted at the office on Sunday, but there were no apparent signs of meetings or other diplomatic activity, and no flag was visible from the street.

Suhail said in a telephone call on Sunday that the Taliban had been ready for talks with the United States followed by a dialogue involving all Afghan groups. He did not say what the Taliban thinking was as a result of the latest flap. However he made it clear that the Taliban have not changed their position on the presence of foreign troops in Afghanistan nor have they offered to allow foreign troops after 2014.

Sites in North Korea win World Heritage status



In this April 24, 2013 photo, a door opens to a structure that is part of the 1,000-year-old Songkyongkwan academy in Kaesong, North Korea.

KAESONG, North Korea (AP)—The remains of a fortress that once surrounded Kaesong, the ancient capital of Korea's Koryo Dynasty, are among sites in North Korea that made it onto UNESCO's World Heritage list on Sunday.

North Korea's bid to have the sites added to the list was approved at a UNESCO meeting

in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Kaesong, located just north of the border with South Korea, was the capital of the kingdom that ruled Korea from 918 to 1392. It's also where the two Koreas ran a joint factory park until tensions forced its closure this spring.

Twelve sites added include the ruins of the Manwoldae palace; a 1,000-year-old academy

that was the top school during that era; relics housed at a museum at the school; and the mausoleum of King Kongmin.

"These valuable cultural relics are the pride of our nation, and they are precious cultural relics that show the long history of our nation," Kim Jin Sok, a researcher at Kaesong City Management Office for

Preserving National Heritage, told The Associated Press. "Also, these relics, some preserved for very long periods, are well known as relics with which we can stand proud in the eyes of the world."

A North Korean complex of ancient tombs from a previous kingdom won heritage status in 2004.

World

Bomb attacks in Syrian capital kill 8 people

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—Suicide bombers targeted security compounds in Damascus and a car bomb exploded in a pro-regime district there Sunday, killing at least eight people, the latest in a surge of civil war violence in the capital.

In northern Syria, a car bomb killed 12 soldiers in Aleppo, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which relies on a network of activists in Syria for information. It had no other details, and the government did not comment.

In neighboring Lebanon, meanwhile, fierce clashes erupted between the Lebanese military and supporters of a hard-line Sunni Muslim cleric, in the latest spill-over from Syria. Six Lebanese soldiers were killed, according to the army, which vowed to hit back with an “iron hand.”

Heavy fighting with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades in Sidon caused panic in the southern coastal city, which until recently had been largely spared the violence hitting other areas. Many people who were spending the day on the beach hurried home, while others living on high floors came down or fled to safer areas. Gray smoke billowed over parts of the city and residents caught in the fire appealed for help.

The fighting broke out in the predominantly Sunni city after



In this photo released by the Syrian official news agency SANA, Syrians investigate a damaged vehicle after two suicide bombings hit security compounds in Damascus, Syria, Wednesday, June 23, 2013.

supporters of Sheikh Ahmad al-Assir, a virulent critic of the powerful Shiite militant Hezbollah group, opened fire on an army checkpoint.

The military issued a statement confirming that six soldiers died in the shooting, including three officers. It said the shooting was unprovoked.

Syria's state-run news agency

SANA said three suicide bombers blew themselves up while trying to break into the Ruknedine police station in northern Damascus, killing five people and wounding several others. SANA said three would-be suicide bombers also tried to break into the Criminal Security Branch in the southern Bab Mousalla area but were caught

by security forces before they could detonate their explosives.

Activists confirmed the death toll.

SANA said a car bomb exploded in Mazzeah 86 district in the capital, killing three people, including a 3-year-old boy. Residents of the district are mostly Alawites, an offshoot Shiite sect that President Bashar Assad's

family belongs to. The opposition forces fighting against Assad's regime are mostly Sunni Muslims.

Nobody immediately claimed responsibility for the Damascus explosions, but they bore the hallmarks of al-Qaida-linked groups that have joined forces with rebels fighting to oust Assad.

The attacks in Syria's two largest cities came as govern-

ment forces pressed an offensive on the outskirts of the capital.

SANA carried a statement by the Interior Ministry saying that the Damascus attacks were a “new escalation by terrorist groups,” a term used by the government to refer to the rebels.

More than 93,000 people have been killed in Syrian conflict that started in March 2011 as peaceful protest against Assad's rule. In the past year, the war has taken on sectarian overtones.

The conflict has increasingly spilled across Syria's borders.

The clashes in Sidon centered on the Bilal bin Rabbah Mosque, where al-Assir preaches. The cleric is believed to have hundreds of armed supporters in Sidon who fought back Sunday. Dozens of al-Assir's gunmen also partially shut down the main highway linking south Lebanon with Beirut.

By Sunday evening, the army had besieged the mosque, sealing off access to it from all directions, and was going after al-Assir and his supporters, who have been agitating for months.

The NNA report said Assir was believed to be hiding inside the mosque with several of his followers.

The cleric and his followers support Sunni rebels in the Syria conflict, and he has threatened to clear apartments in Sidon where Hezbollah supporters live.

Latest bird flu strain ‘kills more than a third’

LONDON (AP)—More than a third of patients infected with a new strain of bird flu died after being admitted to the hospital earlier this year, Chinese researchers report in a new study.

Since the new H7N9 bird flu first broke out in China in late March, the strain has sickened

more than 130 people and killed 37. The World Health Organization has previously described H7N9 as “one of the most lethal influenza viruses” it has ever seen and said it appeared to spread faster than the last bird flu strain, H5N1, that threatened to unleash a pandemic.

After making some adjustments for missing data, the Chinese scientists estimated the overall death rate to be 36 percent. The outbreak was stopped after China closed many of its live animal markets—scientists had assumed the virus was infecting people through exposure

to live birds.

That makes the new strain less deadly than H5N1, which kills about 70 percent of the people it infects. Still, H7N9 is more lethal than the swine flu that caused a 2009 global epidemic. That had a death rate of less than one percent.

The results were released in two papers on the H7N9 strain, published online Monday in the journal *Lancet*.

“The good news is that numbers of (H7N9) cases have stalled,” Cecile Viboud and Lone Simonsen of the U.S. National Institutes of Health wrote in a commentary accompanying

the article.

However, they warned that the threat of the virus still “persists” and predicted that the strain might return in the winter, when flu viruses are typically most active.

That assessment echoes the WHO, which earlier this month also warned of the virus adapting.

Egypt's army says it's ready to save the nation

CAIRO (AP)—Wading into an increasingly volatile fray, Egypt's military on Sunday gave the nation's Islamist rulers and their opponents a week to reach an understanding before planned June 30 opposition protests aimed at forcing out the president, in a toughly worded warning that it will intervene to stop the nation from entering a “dark tunnel.”

The powerful military also gave a thinly veiled warning to President Mohammed Morsi's hard-line backers that it will step in if the mostly secular and liberal protesters, who have vowed to be peaceful, are attacked during the planned demonstrations.

In a bid to project a business-as-usual image, Morsi's office said in a statement late Sunday that the president met with the army's chief, Defense Minister Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi,

to discuss the “domestic scene and the government's efforts to maintain the security of the nation and the safety of its citizens.” There was no mention of el-Sissi's warning.

Seeking to assert Morsi's seniority over el-Sissi—the president is the supreme commander of the armed forces—the brief statement, alluding to June 30, said he ordered the quick completion of plans to protect the state's strategic and vital installations.

The opposition argues that Morsi and his Muslim Brotherhood, despite having won a series of elections since the 2011 revolution that ousted autocrat Hosni Mubarak, have squandered their legitimacy with heavy handed misrule. It contends that the Islamists have encroached on the independence of the judiciary, sought to monopolize power, and pushed

through an Islamist-backed constitution, breaking promises to seek consensus.

Morsi's supporters say the opposition has shunned his offers of dialogue and now are turning to force to remove him because they have been unable to compete at the ballot box.

On Sunday, a court compounded Morsi's troubles by saying members of his Muslim Brotherhood conspired with Hamas, Hezbollah and local militants to storm a prison in 2011 and free 34 Brotherhood leaders, including Morsi. Also, the most iconic youth figure of the 2011 revolution, Wael Ghonim, called on Morsi to step down before June 30 to prevent bloodshed.

Both sides say they intend to be peaceful on June 30, but many fear the day could descend into violence. There are worries

young protesters could attack offices of the Brotherhood and its political arm, the Freedom and Justice party. Some of Morsi's hard-line supporters have vowed to “smash” the protests or have declared protesters infidels who deserve to be killed.

“Those who will spray Morsi with water will be sprayed with blood,” warned one cleric.

El-Sissi, weighed in with his first public comments on the planned protests while addressing officers at a seminar Sunday.

It was his most direct warning yet that the military—which ruled Egypt directly after Mubarak's fall until Morsi's June 30, 2012 inauguration—could step in.

He said the country's divisions had reached a point that they were a danger to the state itself.

WORLD BRIEFS

Uruguay abortion law will not go to referendum

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay (AP)—The most liberal abortion law in South America withstood a challenge Sunday as Uruguayan opponents failed to attract enough votes in a consultation ballot to force a national referendum on repealing it. The law authorizing elective abortions in the first three months of pregnancy was narrowly passed by Congress in October, and independent groups and some members of the right-wing Colorado and centrist National parties have been campaigning to overturn the measure. Opponents needed 655,000 voters, a quarter of Uruguay's electorate, to cast ballots Sunday calling for a referendum. But with nearly all votes counted late Sunday, the electoral council said on its website that only 226,653 people participated.

Israeli aircraft strike targets in Gaza Strip

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel's military says its aircraft struck targets in the Gaza Strip after rockets from the territory were launched at Israel. The military says it hit two weapons storage facilities and a rocket launch site early Monday. No injuries were reported. Israeli police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said six rockets were fired at Israel overnight, causing no damage or injuries. The military said two rockets were intercepted by the missile defense system known as “Iron Dome.” The other four landed in open areas. Rocket fire from Gaza has declined since a military campaign in November, before which militants were firing rockets on an almost daily basis. Sporadic fire still persists however.

Focus

Finance

How is it collected The National Security Agency has established relationships with credit card companies; a warrant could provide information on whenever and wherever the card had been used

Why data is collected According to payment card industry security standards, retailers aren't supposed to hold on to that information unless it's deemed "absolutely necessary" by the retailer

Travel

How Transportation Security Administration collects data on a daily basis from travelers; frequent travelers' information is retained for up to two years

Why Data can be used to know where the person is going, where the person has been and, in some cases, the purpose of the trip

Cameras

How Americans are likely within sight of one of the 30 million estimated surveillance cameras in the U.S.

Why Used to monitor streets, subways and public spaces; able to track through facial recognition technology in a networked area

Internet

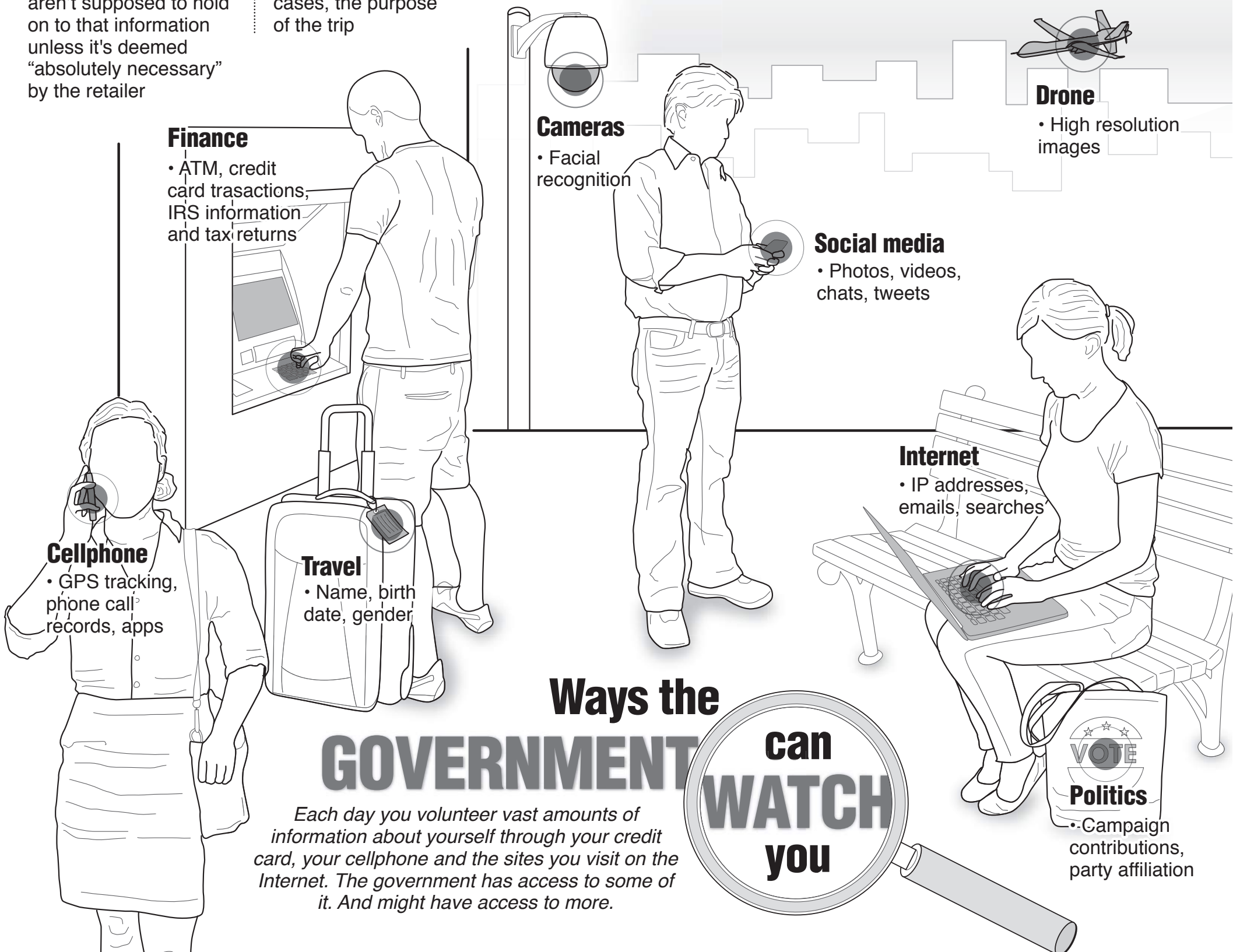
How The government can access any information posted online with a warrant; Google granted 90 percent of government requests for user data in 2012

Why Used to assess terrorist threats; government admits it has sometimes acquired information on Americans accidentally

Drones

How More than 80 agencies already have approval from the FAA; as many 30,000 domestic drones will be in the skies above the U.S. within 20 years

Why Provide surveillance from the sky with high resolution images



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Source:
McClatchy
Washington
Bureau
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Melina
Yingling

Cellphones

How is it collected In 2011, 1.3 million requests were made for subscriber information; if request is labeled "emergency" by an official, no legal documents are required

Why data is collected Surveillance on suspected foreign terrorists

Social media

How Users post information to their profile; each social media company has different standards and levels of access to private information; Facebook profile information stored on a user may remain up to 90 days after deactivation

Why Used to assess terrorist threats

Politics

How Individual donations of more than \$200 are reported to the Federal Election Commission with the name, addresses, occupation and the amount donated of the contributor

Why Regulate campaign money

Overdrive

Toyota 4Runner fits bill for off-road aficionados

By G. CHAMBERS WILLIAMS III
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

For 2013, the Toyota 4Runner carries on its longtime role as one of the best (and last) of the true sport utility vehicles.

This quite-capable on- or off-road midsize SUV entered its fifth generation three years ago, and got a few updates this year.

Prices begin at \$31,490 for the base SR5 model with rear-wheel drive, and \$33,365 with four-wheel drive, which for off-road-driving aficionados like me is the only way to go.

Our tester, the four-wheel-drive Trail model, lists for \$37,155, while the top-of-the-line Limited versions begin at \$41,030 with four-wheel drive.

In the Toyota U.S. lineup for 28 years now, the 4Runner is a traditional body-on-frame, truck-style sport utility vehicle that began as essentially a Toyota compact pickup with a cap over the bed and a back seat.

Over the years it evolved into a great family hauler with four doors, a refined interior and the same off-road capabilities as the Tacoma pickup trucks when equipped with four-wheel drive and other trail-ready features. The first four-door model arrived in 1990.

For 2013, base SR5 models now come with satellite radio, a USB port (for iPhone/iPod/smartphone connection), and Bluetooth hands-free phone and music streaming. These models also have new steering-wheel audio controls.

Standard on Limited models and optional on the Trail version (and included on our tester) is a display audio system with a 6.1-inch screen, along with navigation, Toyota's Entune system, satellite radio, HD radio with iTunes tagging, and text/email-to-speech capability.

Entune is a voice-activated multimedia system with mobile applications and data services. It connects the car to the Internet through a compatible smartphone, provided by the user.



TOYOTA/MCT

The 2013 Toyota 4Runner has a five-speed automatic transmission, despite many Toyota models moving to the more efficient six-speed transmissions.

It hooks up by USB cable or a wireless Bluetooth link. I used it two ways—direct connection of an iPhone via the USB cable, which gave me full screen control of my music; and Bluetooth streaming of audio from the iPhone. Audio streaming was also available for my Samsung Galaxy S3.

The system includes mobile applications for Bing, iHeartRadio, MovieTickets.com, OpenTable and Pandora. Also provided are such services as a fuel-price guide, sports scores, stocks, traffic and weather.

The 4Runner has seating for up to seven passengers with the optional third-row seat, which is suitable mostly for kids or small adults.

There is a long list of available amenities, including leather upholstery. But our tester didn't have the third seat or leather. The Trail version comes with water-resistant fabric seats that are easy to clean if you get a bit of mud on them from the trail.

All models are powered by a 4.0-liter V-6 engine rated at 270 horsepower and 278 foot-pounds of torque, connected to a five-speed automatic trans-

mission. The five-speed transmission is getting a bit dated, as Toyota has six-speeds in many of its vehicles, which helps increase highway mileage.

The 4Runner's EPA ratings are 17 mpg city/22 highway for two-wheel-drive models, and 17/21 for the four-wheel-drives.

Although Toyota has eliminated the 4Runner's V-8 engine option, that engine really isn't necessary. The V-6 had more than enough power for our use of the 4Runner, including some mountain and trail driving. If you need this vehicle with a V-8—for additional towing capacity, for instance—check out the Lexus GX 460 (base price \$53,795), which essentially is a 4Runner in Lexus badging. It has a 4.6-liter V-8 with 301 horsepower. It comes with a six-speed automatic, and EPA ratings are 15/20.

The 4Runner's part-time four-wheel-drive system includes the trail-necessary two-speed transfer case for low-range off-road driving. A locking rear differential was included on our Trail model. Limited four-wheel-drive models have a center differential lock.

Among the few true SUVs that are left, the 4Runner remains one of the best choices for those of us who like to spend time off the beaten track. While soccer moms can live with their crossovers, truck-based SUVs are still the choice for serious off-road driving. This vehicle has the same legendary off-road abilities as the Tacoma pickup, upon whose architecture it was originally based.

Those who need a vehicle with a sturdy truck frame that can tow trailers also will appreciate the 4Runner. Towing capacity is 5,000 pounds, which is enough for most boats, horse trailers and small- to mid-size travel trailers. (The Lexus version, with the V-8, can tow up to 6,500 pounds.)

Styling is boxier than that of the previous generation and most of today's crossovers, but the 4Runner's shape is similar to that of its biggest competitor, the Jeep Grand Cherokee. It has a more-rugged look than that of a crossover such as the Toyota Highlander, but because the target customer is the off-road enthusiast, the 4Runner doesn't need to be so carlike.

NUTS & BOLTS

2013 Toyota 4Runner

- The package: Midsize, four-door, V-6 powered, rear- or four-wheel-drive, five- or seven-passenger truck-based sport utility vehicle.
- Highlights: The fifth generation of Toyota's truck-based midsize sport utility vehicle offers truck ruggedness and reliability in a package that combines great off-road capability with good on-road ride and handling. There also is a Lexus version, the GX 460, which comes only with a V-8 engine.
- Negatives: Optional third seat is not roomy enough for full-size adults; five-speed transmission a bit dated.
- Engine: 4.0-liter V-6.
- Transmission: Five-speed automatic.
- Power/torque: 270 horsepower/278 pound-feet
- Brakes, front/rear: Disc/disc, antilock.
- Electronic stability control: Standard.
- Air bags: Front; front seat-mounted; side-curtain for all three rows; knee for both front seats.
- Overall length: 189.9 inches.
- Curb weight: 4,400-4,805 pounds.
- Towing capacity: 5,000 pounds.
- EPA fuel economy: 17/22 (2WD); 17/21 (4WD).
- Base price: \$31,490
- Price as tested, including destination charge: \$40,815
- Rating: 9.3 (of a possible 10).

Other 4Runner features include a sliding rear cargo deck, standard on our Trail model. Designed for tailgate parties or backwoods camping, it can hold up to 440 pounds. It comes with a "party mode" button that pumps up the bass of the audio system and sends the sound mostly to the rear speakers, so you can share it with your wildlife neighbors deep in the forest.

Unique 17-inch aluminum-alloy wheels are standard on SR5 and Trail models, while the Limited comes with 20-inch wheels. A full-size spare tire is standard, as well—a necessity for trail driving.

Active Traction Control is included on all four-wheel-drive models. Downhill Assist Control, which helps bring the vehicle safely down steep off-road grades without the use of the brakes, is standard on SR5 and Limited four-wheel-drive versions.

Several off-road features were migrated to the 4Runner from the more-expensive Land

Cruiser, including Crawl Control, which allows the driver to choose one of five modes to match the terrain on which the vehicle is operating. This is standard on the Trail model.

Hill-Start Assist, which holds the vehicle in place briefly on a hill when the driver takes his foot off the brake pedal, is standard on all models.

Trail models also come with Multi-Terrain Select, which also includes wheel-slip control for the most-rugged off-road situations. In mud or sand, this system will allow more wheel slip than normal, which helps it push the vehicle through. While driving on rock, wheel slip is more controlled, which helps on uneven surfaces.

Optional on the Trail model is the Kinetic Dynamic Suspension System (included on our vehicle). It's designed to disconnect the stabilizer bars to allow the axles to flex enough to keep the wheels on the ground on uneven terrain, a great help on difficult trails.

UNDER THE HOOD

Oil pressure gauge gets jumpy

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: My oil pressure gauge has begun to get the jitters. It seems to work normally for a while then jumps around like crazy when I speed up from a stop. The truck is a 1998 GMC half-ton. Could this be an engine problem or just the gauge?—Alex Fuller

ANSWER: I'd start with a check of oil level and condition.

Low oil level could cause the gauge to intermittently drop out, perhaps on turns or acceleration. Also, it doesn't hurt to check for dilution or contamination. If color and thickness seem OK, we'll move on to the gauge.

Vehicles that have an oil pressure gauge employ a sending unit, threaded into a port on the engine. Yours is thumb-size and black. It's located toward the top and rear of the engine, near the base of the distributor, and has a single tan wire attached to

it. The sending unit contains an electromechanical mechanism that varies in electrical resistance in response to oil pressure. Sending units can be flaky, and sometimes leak oil.

When an oil, temperature or oil pressure gauge fails to work at all, a neat trick is to disconnect the sending unit wire and look for the gauge response — many will read zero. Next, grounding the appropriate wire at the sending unit typically causes the gauge to read high/full, or hot — probably a bit past the upper limit, though some gauges respond in the opposite direc-

tion. If the gauge shows these two characteristics, the fault lies within the sending unit.

If your oil pressure gauge is the only one of its siblings to act erratically, my money is on the sending unit or perhaps its electrical connection. Verifying the cause of a jittery electrical signal is a bit tricky to explain and do, making replacement of the sender a very high-odds \$50 gamble.

■ ■ ■

Q: All of the functions in the driver's side door of my 2004 GMC pickup have stopped working, but sometimes will come back, but only with the

door open. Any ideas before I take it in for repair?—Tom Lindquist

A: Tom, I have a hunch your truck may be suffering from a broken wire in the bundle that enters the door from the A-pillar. With the key in the run position (engine off) and door open, try depressing and holding a window or door lock switch as you gently wiggle/massage the black rubber boot, which is about 1.5 inches in diameter and located just below the upper door hinge. If normal operation occurs, even briefly, this tells us there's trouble inside the boot.

Disconnecting/pulling the boot back from the pillar will allow a peek at the wire bundle within. Look in particular for a broken orange or black wire. If a wire repair is needed, splice in a 6-inch length of wire, looped, to lessen flexing and strain on the repaired connections. Solder and shrink-wrap—no crimp connectors here!

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

Beau on trial for murder in NY designer's death



AP
Antonio Cachay and wife Sylvia Cachay exit State Supreme court, Tuesday, March 8, 2011, in New York after a court appearance by Nicholas Brooks.

NEW YORK (AP)—Sylvie Cachay, a promising New York fashion designer, had a dangerous chemistry with her playboy boyfriend, the son of an Academy Award-winning composer. They were only together six months, but they fought like crazy and made up the same way, friends say.

But on Dec. 9, 2010, Cachay's body was found in an overflowing bathtub at a members-only hotel in the Meatpacking District, among the trendiest neighborhoods in the city. She was dressed in a thick black sweater and pink and blue underwear. The faucet was on full blast. Her boyfriend, Nicholas Brooks, was absent—she was discovered by hotel workers responding to a leaky ceiling in the room below. But his DNA was on the faucet, prosecutors said.

The case was a tabloid sensation. "Death at the Soho House: Beauty in the Bath," read the New York Post cover.

Brooks, 25, is now on trial for murder after prosecutors said he strangled the 33-year-old inside the Soho House hotel room because she tried to end their tumultuous relationship. The case is expected to go until early July.

"It was an act as ruthless as it was cowardly," Assistant District Attorney Jordan Arnold said during opening statements.

Brooks has pleaded not guilty. His defense attorney Jeffrey Hoffman suggested Cachay drowned accidentally, passing out from an overdose of prescription pills she took to treat migraines and fibromyalgia, a disorder that causes widespread pain in the body. He said investigators rushed to arrest Brooks because they needed a fast suspect in the high-profile killing that became national news.

"There had to be immediate satisfaction to the press and to the publicity," Hoffman said.

The two were introduced by a friend in 2010, and were on one of their first dates when Cachay's teacup poodle Pepper was run over by a car. She had to euthanize the dog, and Brooks comforted her. The trauma bonded them, her friends said. But the

two were constantly on-again, off-again. Cachay didn't like that they would drink too much together, her friends testified.

"Their relationship seemed very passionate, both in a good way and also in a bad way," her friend and personal trainer Cheri Fogelman testified. "Sometimes they were really happy together and sometimes it was really bad, angry hurtful and hard to deal with," she said.

"I think I just broke up with Nick," she texted Fogelman in late November. A few days later she said: "Nick still around."

Brooks was "a young man from a privileged background who liked to party," Arnold said. He was unemployed, dropped out of college and had a penchant for escorts and marijuana, prosecutors said. He is the son of "You Light Up my Life" composer Joseph Brooks, himself arrested in 2009 on rape charges in a casting couch scheme. The elder Brooks killed himself in 2011, his body found with a plastic bag over his head in his Manhattan apartment.

Cachay was the daughter of Peru-born parents and grew up with her brother near Arlington, Va. Her father was a physician. She studied fashion in college and worked as a designer for Marc Jacobs, Victoria's Secret and Tommy Hilfiger before she opened her own swimsuit line, Sylva, in 2006. But the line struggled during the recession, and closed two years later.

Fogelman and others said the couple seemed mismatched and not only because of the nine-year age difference. Cachay was vibrant, outgoing. Brooks was brooding and often unfriendly, her friends testified. But he could also be deeply romantic, penning a sincere love letter to the designer after she threatened to break up with him.

Elphidia Deleon Guerrero Camacho Sablan,

lovingly known as Peding
born on May 10, 1948 was called to her new life on June 19, 2013

In Her New Life she now joins her:

Parents: Albert "Bobbing" Sablan Camacho
Primitiva "Bibang" Acosta Deleon Guerrero Camacho
Father-in-Law: Vicente Santos Sablan (TUDEGUA)
Maternal Grandparents: Joaquin Diaz Deleon Guerrero
Josefa Acosta Deleon Guerrero
Paternal Grandparents: Luis Taimanao Camacho
Ramona Reyes Sablan Camacho
Sister: Vertilia Elena "Bilang" Camacho
Leon Guerrero

Her Loving Memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

HUSBAND: Tito Muna Sablan
MOTHER: Rosario Arriola Camacho
MOTHER IN LAW: Maria Muna Sablan (TUDEGUA)
CHILDREN: Pamela C. Sablan and Jesse C. Chong (Vincent Jesse "Beng")
Mary Katherine "Kit" and Jude Dickinson (Tito Jonathan "TJ" (Tyler), Kiana Maria, Jude "JJ")
Gina Marie and Jesse D. Delacruz (Jenna)
Nicole and Christopher R. Sablan (Christian, Maria, Isabella, Adrianna)

SIBLINGS AND IN-LAWS:

†Vertilia DLG Camacho and Nicolas C. Leon Guerrero and Children
Luis DLG. Camacho and Children
Diego DLG. and Carmen B. Camacho and Children
Brenda DLG Camacho
Joe and Sherry Castro and Children
Manuel Robert A. and Joyce P. Camacho and Children
Albert Patrick "Bamba" and Magdalena "Manding" Q. Camacho and Children
Albert LG. Camacho, Jr.
Martin Luis A. and Portia S. Camacho and Children
Peter Anthony LG. and Eva C. Camacho and daughter Alice Ramona C. and Samisoni Moala and Children
Paul William DLG. and Velma Palacios Camacho and Children
Melvin Wayne C. and Ruthann P. Sakisat and Children

Conrad M. and Maryann Sablan and Children
Vicente M. and Zita Sablan and Children
Magdalena and †Henry Hofschneider and Children
†Vicente and †Rita A. Manglona and Children
†Jose and Emilia B. Manglona and Children
†Nicolas and Lucia C. Manglona and Children
Herman and Lorenza M. Manglona and Children
Mary and Bart Devine and Children
Joaquin and Delfina C. Manglona and Children
Thomas and Laura Manglona and Children

Nightly Mass is offered at San Antonio Church at 6:00pm, followed by the Rosary.

Funeral details will be provided at a later date.

Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and God Bless
From Tito M. Sablan, Children and Family

TODAY'S ZOMBIES ARE IN A HURRY

By CHRISTOPHER BORRELLI
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO—The contemporary zombie is intensely networked, high-strung and on the move. Just go, go, go, 24-7.

Indeed, according to a 2012 study by the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project, people with prolonged exposure to this lifestyle will likely "thirst for instant gratification, settle on quick choices and lack patience." University of Arizona and University of Pennsylvania marketing professors recently polled 800 callers to a help line who hung up after being put on hold; asked why they ended their calls, 34 percent said they got annoyed, hung up then called back immediately, expecting a different result.

And that's just you and me—the living zombies.

In the past decade, the undead kind have attained a whole new level of impatience.

Exhibit A: "World War Z," the new \$200 million-plus Brad Pitt action-horror hybrid adapted from Max Brooks' 2006 bestseller. In the book, wave after wave of the shuffling dead—referred to as "walking corpses," "the Walking Plague," etc.—are unquestionably just walking. They are classic archetypal zombies, which means, to an extent they were defined by a lack of dexterity and speed; they don't overpower through strength or swiftness but unrelenting ubiquity. One of the novel's most memorable, haunting images is of people around the globe simultaneously reporting corpses "walking out of the surf."

In the movie? The undead race through streets with the speed of a rushing stream and the agility of cats.

Fast, in unison.

To zombie-philes, this is not a shock: "It's become the eternal debate," sighed Chad Savage, who runs Chicago Zombie, an all-zombies-all-the-time website. "Stones or Beatles? Fast zombies or slow zombies?"

On movie screens—at least since 2002's "28 Days Later," when Cillian Murphy woke from a coma and found himself pursued through London by zippy zombie clergy—fast zombies have been gaining on the slow. The trend here is overwhelmingly walking dead who are in a hurry, must eat brains now and / or enter a triathlon. In fact, the "World War Z" film isn't merely on trend; its zombies represent a notable increase in zombie velocity.

Said David Tarleton, a film editor and assistant professor at Columbia College: "The audience has grown so used to interpreting a lot of visual information quickly, rhythms within shots have sped up, lengths of edits have sped up, from maybe 7 seconds in the '40s to closer to 4 seconds now. The speed of zombies is probably a side effect—I had a student last semester who made a zombie movie and went with relatively fast zombies. Because it's in the water now. We live in the fast zombie era."

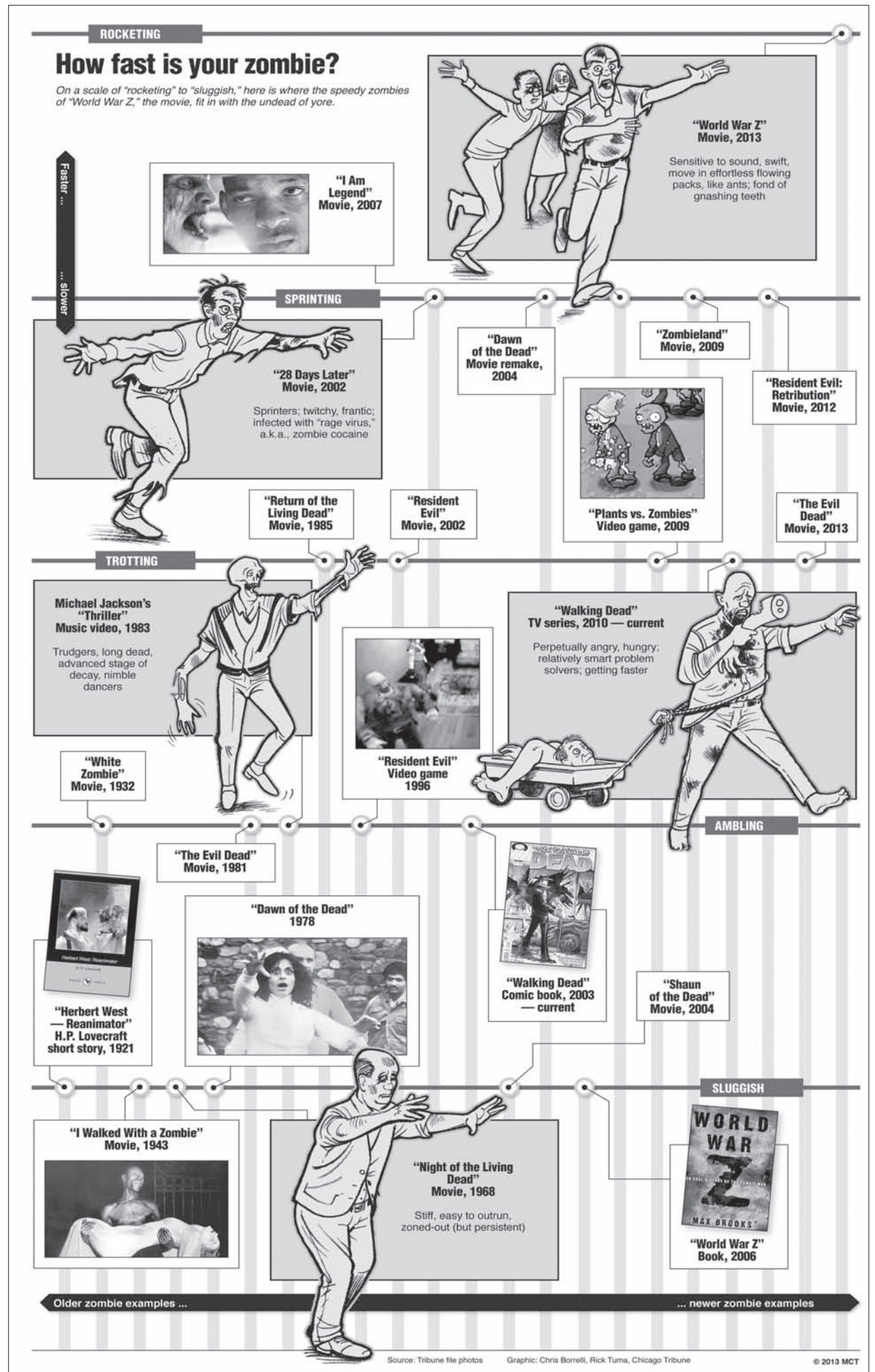
The slow-zombie contingent has history on its side.

Early movie zombies were creepers, sometimes hypnotized. In George A. Romero's seminal 1968 film, "Night of the Living Dead," a reporter asks a police officer: "Are they slow moving, chief?" And the cop replies: "Yeah, they're dead." The creators of AMC's blockbuster series "The Walking Dead"—again, that word, "walking"—once posted online a handful of rules intended to govern the behavior of its zombies: They rejected all "sprinters" and insisted that the fastest its zombies should ever move is a "shambling run."

But three seasons later, even they have shown signs of succumbing to fast-zombie lobbyists.

The future is in fast, running zombies—"Zombieland" zombies, "Resident Evil" zombies, armies of computer-generated zombies who don't require the patience of make-up artists and are cheaper to employ.

Be thankful you're not dead. Sounds exhausting.



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WORLD WAR Z [CC] (PG-13)	Tue. - Wed. (415 PM)
WORLD WAR Z 3D [CC] (PG-13)	Tue. - Wed. (115 PM) 720 PM
MAN OF STEEL [CC] (PG-13)	Tue. - Wed. (345 PM)
MAN OF STEEL 3D [CC] (PG-13)	Tue. - Wed. (1230 PM) 700 PM
THIS IS THE END [CC] (R)	Tue. - Wed. (215 PM 445 PM) 730 PM
AFTER EARTH [CC] (PG-13)	Tue. - Wed. 705 PM
NOW YOU SEE ME [CC] (PG-13)	Tue. - Wed. (120 PM 410 PM) 715 PM
FAST & FURIOUS 6 [CC] (PG-13)	Tue. - Wed. (125 PM 425 PM) 725 PM

www.REGmovies.com

'Monsters' beats zombies, Superman at box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Turns out zombies and Superman are no match for monsters.

Disney's "Monsters University" is the weekend box-office winner, according to studio estimates released Sunday. The animated family film, which reunites stars Billy Crystal and John Goodman and their characters from the 2001 hit "Monsters, Inc.," debuted in first place with \$82 million, beating out swarming zombies in "World War Z" and Superman himself in "Man of Steel."

"The diversity of this weekend is part of what makes this business so great," said Dave Hollis, Disney's head of distribution. "It's a really extraordinary weekend for the industry."

Especially for "Monsters Uni-

versity," Pixar's 14th consecutive advance publicity to open in

1. "Monsters University," \$82 million (\$54.5 million international).
2. "World War Z," \$66 million (\$45.8 million international).
3. "Man of Steel," \$41.2 million (\$89 million international).
4. "This Is the End," \$13 million.
5. "Now You See Me," \$7.87 million (\$6.6 million international).
6. "Fast & Furious 6," \$4.7 million (\$11.2 million international).
7. "The Internship," \$3.43 million (\$3.2 million international).
8. "The Purge," \$3.41 million (\$1.1 million international).
9. "Star Trek: Into Darkness," \$3 million (\$4.9 million international).
10. "Iron Man 3," \$2.2 million (\$400,000 international).

film to open in first place. Such expectations of excellence put a "healthy pressure" on filmmakers, Hollis said: "To deliver that kind of quality consistently is a differentiator in the marketplace."

Still, the film exceeded studio expectations with its domestic totals, he said.

Paramount's Brad Pitt zombie romp overcame critical

second place with \$66 million. Media reports months ahead of the film's opening chronicled its problems, including a revamped ending that delayed its release.

Rewrites and reshoots sent the film over budget. It ended up reportedly costing more than \$200 million to make, but early reviews were positive.

"What 'World War Z' proves

is that all the negative backstory that can be thrown at a movie doesn't matter if the movie's good," said Paul Dergarabedian of box-office tracker Hollywood.com. "I don't think the audience cares one lick if they had to reshoot the ending if they like the ending and like the movie."

The success of the film means it could be a franchise in the making. Paramount's president of domestic distribution, Don Harris, called the opening "spectacular."

"It's the biggest live-action original opening since 'Avatar,'" he said. "(It's) Brad Pitt's biggest opening ever, and in terms of Paramount's recent history, it ranks behind 'Iron Man' and 'Transformers' as the third largest potential franchise opening in the history of the company."

Warner Bros. "Man of Steel" was third at the box office, adding another \$41.2 million to its coffers and bringing its domestic ticket sales over \$210 million in just the second week of release.

The Sony comedy "This Is the End," which stars Seth Rogen, James Franco and Jonah Hill as versions of themselves trapped in a mansion during the apocalypse, finished in fourth place.

Summit Entertainment's magic-heist thriller "Now You See Me" held onto fifth place in its fourth week in theaters.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Where available, latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released on Monday.

Costner takes batting practice in Cleveland

CLEVELAND (AP)—Kevin Costner took timeout from filming his football movie in Cleveland for a little batting practice before the Indians played the Minnesota Twins on Sunday.

"We have a new player, bro," Indians first baseman Nick Swisher said of the actor who will play the general manager of the Cleveland Browns in the movie "Draft Day." "We signed him to a one-day contract. We've got Kevin Costner on our side."

Wearing an Indians' jersey and cap, Costner hit several line drives from pitches thrown by bullpen coach Kevin Cash as Cleveland's players looked on. He also played catch in the outfield, fielded grounders at shortstop and took time to chat with several players and coaches.

"I was actually glad I made contact because I haven't swung in a couple years," Costner said. "I thought my chances of swinging through the ball were just as good as fouling it off."

While many of Costner's films have had a baseball theme, "Draft Day" has him as a Browns' executive attempting to acquire the No. 1 pick in the NFL draft. The movie began shooting in Cleveland last

month and is scheduled to be released next year.

Costner's baseball-related movies include "Field of Dreams," "Bull Durham," and

"For Love of the Game."

While in town, he's attended several games and thinks the Indians can win the American League Central.



AP
Actor Kevin Costner makes a throw to first base while taking infield warm-ups with the Cleveland Indians before their game against the Minnesota Twins, in Cleveland, Sunday, June 23, 2013.

Funeral plans set for actor James Gandolfini

NEW YORK (AP)—Funeral services for actor James Gandolfini will be Thursday at the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine in New York City.

An HBO spokeswoman speaking on behalf of the family says the funeral is scheduled for

10 a.m.

The 51-year-old star of "The Sopranos" died Wednesday in Rome. Family spokesman Michael Kobold says Gandolfini died of a heart attack.

The Italian news agency ANSA reports Gandolfini's body departed Rome for the

United States on Sunday. Kobold earlier told reporters the "provisional plan" was to repatriate Gandolfini's body Monday.

The actor had been headed to Sicily to appear at the Taormina Film Festival, which paid tribute to him Saturday.



AP
This undated publicity photo released by HBO, shows actor James Gandolfini in his role as Tony Soprano, head of the New Jersey crime family portrayed in HBO's "The Sopranos."

'That 70s Show' actress arrested in Southern Calif

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—"That '70s Show" actress Lisa Robin Kelly has been arrested in Southern California on suspicion of drunken driving.

The California Highway Patrol says officers noticed signs of possible intoxication when they helped move the 43-year-old actress' stalled car

off Interstate 5 in Burbank late Saturday.

The CHP said that after an investigation, officers arrested and booked her on suspicion of DUI. Kelly was released on \$5,000 bail.

An email to her agent was not immediately returned.

It was not her first brush with

the law. Kelly and her husband Robert Joseph Gilliam were arrested last November in connection to a disturbance at their home in the Charlotte, N.C., suburb of Mooresville.

Kelly portrayed Laurie Forman, sister of Topher Grace's lead character Eric, on the FOX series, which ended in 2006.

"I've been to about three or four games and they've won every one of them," Costner said. "I really think this team could win the division. I've watched a lot of baseball and they have a couple of good pieces of DNA, and one of them is they come from behind. Not all teams can do that. They've got the right amount of athletic arrogance to do that."

The Indians entered Sunday in second place and trailed Detroit by three games.

"I think if they just make up their mind, they're going to go to somebody else's gym and beat 'em up," Costner said. "I think they can run Detroit down. I think they pose a lot of problems."

Costner laughed as he talked about how he has enjoyed his stay.

"Cleveland's been great to me," he said. "I like the town. I told my wife how fun it is to walk around. I'm not a drinker. I think you've gotta drink to fit in here."

Costner drew a lot of attention in the Indians' clubhouse as he dressed for his workout Sunday morning. Pitcher Justin Masterson wasn't aware the Oscar-winning actor was at the ballpark until he saw him across the room.

"I looked over there and said, 'Hey, that's Kevin Costner,'" Masterson said. "It's cool to see him here."

Billy Crystal: \$1M to Sandy-damaged NY beach town

LONG BEACH, New York (AP)—Billy Crystal has helped raise \$1 million to rebuild his native beach town on New York's Long Island hard-hit by Superstorm Sandy.

The "City Slickers" and "When Harry Met Sally" star announced the gift to the city of Long Beach on Saturday, while standing on a newly installed patch of the town's boardwalk.

Newsday reports that \$112,000 of the gift will come from Crystal's family. The remaining \$888,000 is coming from money he helped raise at the annual Celebrity Fight Night fundraiser in March, an event that raises money for the Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center at Barrow Neurological Institute and other charities.

Crystal made the announcement before hundreds of beachgoers.

Officials hope part of a new \$44 million boardwalk will be completed by mid-July.



Crystal

Fear of losing his beloved pet keeps man up at night

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have written to you before, and your advice served me well. I have another problem now, and I don't know what to do about it.

I am a childless man, but I have owned my dog for 12 years. I work from home and we are together constantly. Honestly, Abby, he is the joy of my life.

My problem is I live in constant fear of losing him. I know it will break my heart, and I'm not sure I can deal with it. At night, when I rub his belly at bedtime and see the love in his eyes, I can't sleep for thinking about the day when he will no longer be with me.

I know he's "just a dog," but he has been my kid for all this time. Do you have any advice for me?

AFRAID OF THE LOSS

DEAR AFRAID: I understand your feelings. I doubt there is any pet owner who hasn't had one special departed pet who lives on forever in his or her heart.

My advice to you is to not spoil one more precious second you have with your dog by worrying about what will eventually happen. You knew going in that your dog would have a certain life span. That's the "deal" we make when we become animal guardians.

When the time comes, talk to your veterinarian about support groups in which you can share your feelings. And don't be surprised when you find out you are one of many.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have this co-worker, "Sam," who is no longer performing 100 percent at work. It started shortly after he moved out of town and he was forced to start commuting. Sam complains a lot about the commute because he doesn't allow enough time for it and he ends up being late to work.

Lately I have noticed that he has also started to slack off on his daily tasks. He'll sit down, prepare to do something, then get up and disappear for 20 to 25 minutes. He'll come back for a few minutes, then disappear again. I don't know where he's going. All I know is we generally have to pick up the slack when he gets to the end of his shift and realizes he hasn't accomplished everything.

Is this something I should report to my managers? I feel it's unfair that Sam gets paid for the same amount of time that I do, while I'm doing my work at full capacity and he's putting in less than half.

FRUSTRATED CO-WORKER IN ILLINOIS

DEAR FRUSTRATED: If it won't have a negative impact on your job ratings, you and the others on your shift should stop picking up the slack for Sam. It will then become apparent to your managers that he's not doing his share, and he will cook his own goose.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: When I was 11, I lived with my dad and stepmom. My 14-year-old brother lived with our grandparents in another town, but they would visit every couple of months.

After one visit, as they were leaving, my grandmother said, "Come here and give your brother a kiss and tell him you love him." My brother and I looked at each other and, in typical kid fashion, said, "YUCK!!"

Abby, I never saw my brother again. He died the next week from a congenital brain aneurism.

It taught me a lesson. The words we say to our loved ones should be sweet, because they may be the last words from us they will ever hear. My brother died 55 years ago and I miss him still.

STILL MISSING HIM

DEAR STILL MISSING HIM: Please accept my sympathy for your loss. The life lesson you learned from your brother's untimely death was an important one. I am sorry it is one you had to learn at such a tender age.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



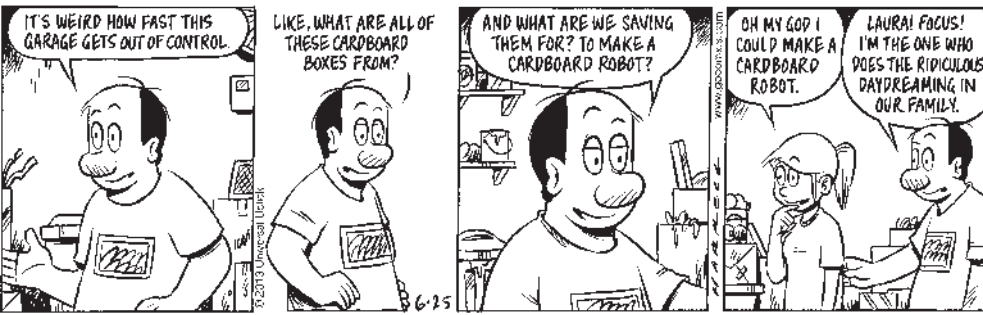
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



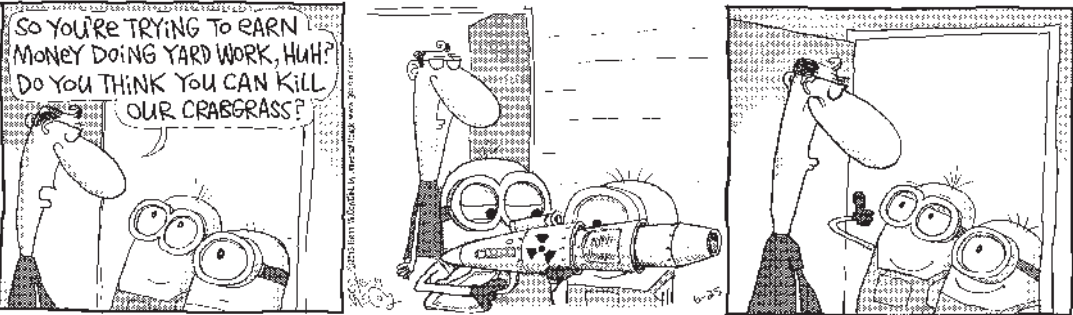
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Grand"

5 Letter-man's network

8 Out of control

12 Suspend

13 Weeding tool

14 Wise one

15 Killer whale

16 Lineage

18 Astro-nauts' descent to Earth

20 Locations

21 Comic Deluise

22 Satchel

23 "Forget it!"

26 Nation

30 Lawyers' org.

31 Sly one

32 Nay

33 Racism, e.g.

36 Aden's land

38 Bill and —

39 Adams or Ameche

40 Clean software

43 Turduck-en, e.g.

47 Immoderate devotion

49 Met melody

50 Taj Mahal city

51 Trouble

52 Ring up

53 Lecherous look

54 Possess

55 Duel tool

DOWN

1 Valhalla VIP

2 Aesopian also-ran

3 Formerly

4 Landlocked

5 Amulet

6 Skeletal

7 Moment

8 Delegate

9 Dillon or Damon

10 Shrek, for

11 Jailer's janglers

17 Jacob's brother

19 Plaything

22 Carton

23 Apprehend

24 Japane-sash

25 Witty one

26 Coquet-ish

27 Scot's hat

28 Deli bread

29 Longing

31 To and —

34 Eye-related

35 Forum garment

36 Second person

37 Intertwine

39 Senior member

40 Soap brand

41 Advantage

42 Drill

43 Front of a ship

44 Snare

45 Irritate

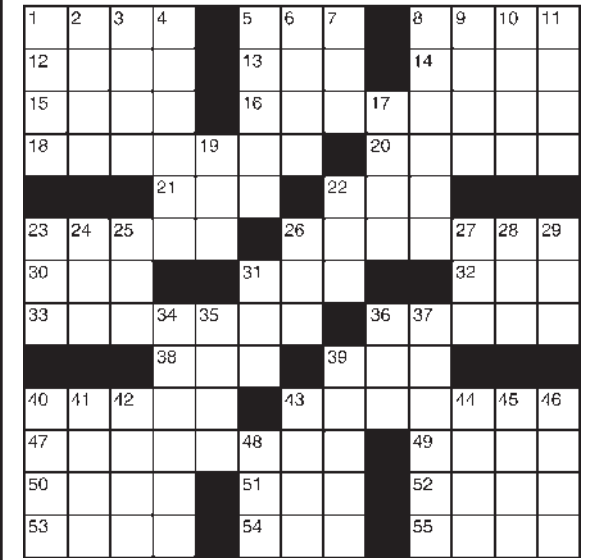
46 New Haven campus

48 Pair

Solution time: 21 mins.

USED OR STOP
TIVO CHI TRUC
ALEE TORIOISE
HONSHU DILLER
NAPA NIL
TORTILLA DISH
INA HEILIE OAH
MOPF TORMENTS
TOM SPUD
STUCCO OSWALD
TOREADOR ALOE
ADEN ORT RAGE
ROSE RES DROP

Yesterday's answer 6-25



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Busby Philips, 34; Linda Cardellini, 38; Ricky Gervais, 52; Carly Simon, 68

Happy Birthday: Opportunities are in sight. It will be important not to let anything pass you by. The fear of change is your enemy, so embrace life and everything that's offered. Love, romance and intrigue can be in your future if you are willing to take a chance and adopt an expressive and innovative approach to whatever comes your way. Your numbers are 4, 13, 17, 21, 27, 36, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Work on what you can fix, not the impossible. Listen to others' complaints and sympathize. Coming up with workable solutions will put you in a good position. Change may be opposed, but is probably necessary. Secure your position. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Express your feelings and future plans. Take in a seminar or pick up information that will help you reach your goal successfully. Short trips will enable you to get a close-up view of the existing possibilities. Love is on the rise. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You have more control than you realize. Step up and put your plans in motion. Don't limit the outcome because someone is putting unnecessary demands on you. Make the changes that will ensure your success. You can improve your financial future. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Get a grip on what's important to you and what isn't. Taking on too much will be your downfall. Focus on your partnerships or family members who

may need your help. Giving back will ensure that you will have no regrets. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Look, see and do. Being decisive and recognizing what you are capable of doing will help you make a difference. Refuse to let fear or someone less generous stand in your way. A contribution you make will bring high returns. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A financial setback is likely due to a joint venture gone sour. Think before you get involved with anyone who shows signs of uncertainty or unpredictability. Help a cause you believe in rather than someone trying to take advantage of your kindness. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may confuse some people and upset others, but it will be necessary if you want to reach your goal. Now is not the time to show uncertainty. Take control and do whatever it takes to change whatever is standing in your way. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Put your own spin on whatever you pursue. Be creative and let your imagination lead the way. Love and romance will inspire you to take on new responsibilities. A change in your financial situation and contractual obligations looks positive. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Concentrate on your personal papers and finances. Making changes at home or buying or selling something that will help you balance your budget should be considered. You need to be realistic about what you have and what you can do. *****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Focus on partnerships. Whether it is a business or personal deal you are working on, you must not jump to conclusions or make snap decisions that can interfere with important relationships. Put love first and plan a romantic evening. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A challenge will boost your morale and get you pumped up for the future. Don't sit back or get down because someone is being negative. Concentrate on yourself and being your very best. A change of attitude will enhance your reputation. ***

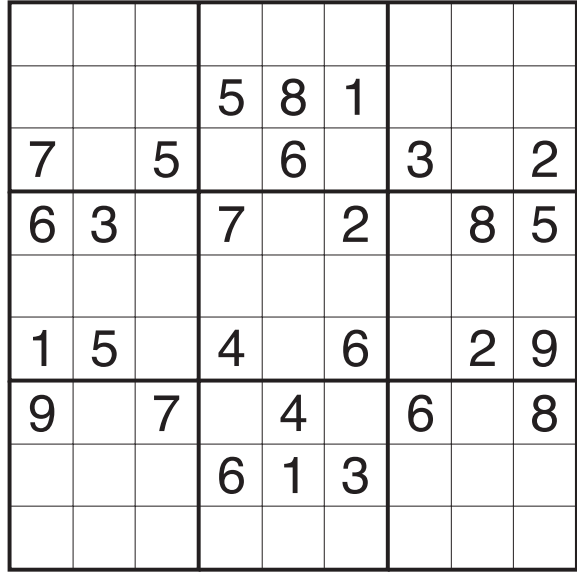
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your concern should be with your accomplishments, not someone else's. A trip or special plans that encourage someone you care about to meet you halfway will lead to success. *****

Birthday Baby: You are expressive, captivating and passionate. You are innovative and inventive.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, eugenialast.com/blog/ for Eugenia's blog and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

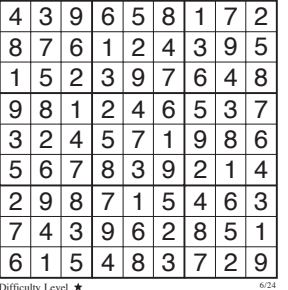


Difficulty Level ★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORDS. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PILLOW FIGHTS Solution: 4 letters



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Battle, Bedroom, Blanket, Blast, Cheer, Children, Control, Cushion, Dodge, Dormitory, Energy, Face, Family, Feathers, Finals, Force, Giggles, Laughter, Lead, Lose, Moves, One-handed, Parents, Public, Rounds, Safe, Screams, Shield, Side, Sleepovers, Space, Squeeze, Strike, Swing, Technique, Teens, Throw, Ticksles, Toss, Tricks, Underhand, Wrestle, Yell, Young
Yesterday's Answer: Retina
To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 33, 34, 35, 36 or 37, call 1-800-642-6480. Order online at wonderworduniversalclick.com. (Certa ns 43 puzzles.)

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4 years experience in sewing t-shirts and different kinds of sports uniforms.

Interested applicants, please send your resume to Rosal/Zest Enterprises & United Printers at P.O. Box 8065 SVRB, Saipan MP 96950 or e-mail rosal_zest@yahoo.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position: **Farmer** (2 positions). Salary: \$350 to \$400 per month with housing, utilities, food allowance, ground transportation, and workers' compensation insurance provided. Five years experience in fruit, vegetable, and livestock farming required. Must be able to operate farm equipment & machinery.

All applicants must be of good health, good moral character, and must agree to a drug test. High school graduate. Must be able to read, speak and write basic English. Interested applicants must submit their bio-data, resume, police clearance, and other supporting documents to the Saipan Farm & Garden via email at ccsspn@yahoo.com or via fax at 670-233-7342 or send to P.O. Box 503771, Saipan, MP96950. Closing date: July 8, 2013.

Position: **House Worker** (1 position). Five years experience in working as a houseworker with duties to include: vacuuming, mopping floor, cleaning windows, and other areas of the household and office used for business operations; cooking, making coffee, and cleaning utensils for office use; dispose of trash and other office refuse on a daily basis; cleaning and maintaining in sanitary condition the offices of Cornerstone Consulting Service; and, performing other houseworker-related duties as assigned.

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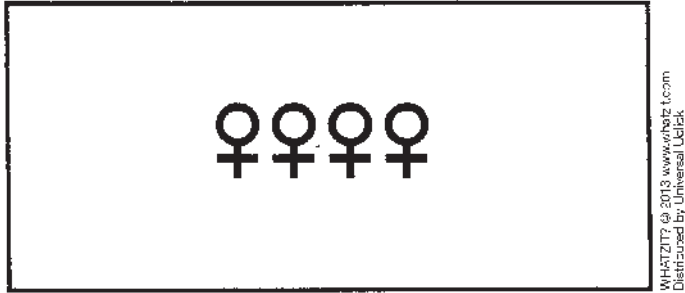
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Pastimes
Calvin and Hobbes

Rollers eyeing tw

Wimbledon spat: Williams, Sharapova trade volleys



LONDON

(AP)—As her agent nodded along approvingly from a front-row seat, Serena Williams sounded contrite and composed. Well-rehearsed, too.

Williams even managed to crack herself up with a couple of jokes during her news conference at Wimbledon as the defending champion, where the primary topic was hardly her 31-match winning streak or her bid for a sixth title at the All England Club or her injured sister Venus' absence from the field.

Instead, more than half the questions at Sunday's session revolved around themes generating the most buzz on the eve of tennis' oldest and most prestigious Grand Slam tournament: what Williams was quoted as saying in a recent magazine article—and Maria Sharapova's surprisingly forceful verbal swipe in reaction to that story.

"It definitely hasn't been easy," the No. 1-ranked Williams said about the stir created by a *Rolling Stone* profile posted online Tuesday. "And I feel like I really wanted to say: I apologize for everything that was said in that article."

Williams already had issued a statement expressing regret for remarks about the 16-year-old victim in the Steubenville, Ohio, rape case.

On Sunday, Williams said she approached the No. 3-ranked Sharapova to try to smooth things over by extending an apology at a pre-tournament players' party Thursday. The back-and-forth between two of the sport's most popular and successful women can be traced to a passage where the story's author surmised that something critical Williams said during a telephone conversation with her sister referred to Sharapova.

But Thursday's interaction didn't end the matter because Sharapova delivered this broadside at her news conference Saturday: "If she wants to talk about something personal, maybe she should talk about her relationship and her boyfriend that was married and is getting a divorce



In this photo taken on Sunday, June 23, 2013 and made available by The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club Wimbledon, defending women's champion Serena Williams of the United States speaks to the media during a press conference at Wimbledon.

and has kids."

Given a chance to react directly to that swipe 24 hours later, Williams declined, saying: "I definitely was told of (Sharapova's) comments. I definitely like to keep my personal life personal. I think it would be inappropriate for me to comment on it."

All in all, nothing tennis related has drawn nearly as much attention in the run-up to Wimbledon. That might change Monday, when play begins and four-time major champion Sharapova is among those scheduled to be on court, facing 37th-ranked Kristina Mladenovic of France. Also on the schedule: two-time Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka, 2011 Wimbledon winner Petra Kvitová, and a matchup between up-and-coming Americans Sloane Stephens and Jamie Hampton.

The honor of the year's first match on Centre Court goes to

the defending men's champion, Roger Federer.

"You feel very unique, clearly, because you are the one opening the court," said Federer, who will be bidding for a record eighth Wimbledon championship. "I think it's a big deal for, also, the players I've played, who got the 'unluck' or luck of the draw to play me in that first round."

This time, the recipient of that "unluck" was Victor Hanesescu of Romania, who's never made it past the third round in seven previous Wimbledon appearances.

Others playing Monday include No. 2 Andy Murray, the runner-up a year ago; and No. 5 Rafael Nadal, whose 12 Grand Slam titles include two at Wimbledon. Federer could face Nadal in the quarterfinals, with the winner possibly meeting Murray in the semifinals.

"I'd rather Rafa and Roger were on the other side of the draw," said Murray, aiming

to give Britain its first male champion at Wimbledon since Fred Perry in 1936, "but they're not."

No. 1 Novak Djokovic, meanwhile, is expected to have an easier path through other half of the field and won't get started until Tuesday. That's also when Williams is scheduled to play.

By the sound of things Sunday, she might be pleased to be able to focus on tennis rather than talking.

"There's one thing I'm really good at," said the 31-year-old Williams, the oldest woman to top the WTA rankings, "and that's hitting the ball over a net, in a box. I'm excellent."

Certainly true. She won her 16th Grand Slam title by beating Sharapova two weeks ago at the French Open, and declared Sunday, "It's great for women's tennis when we play each other." (That might be because Williams has won their past 13 matches.)

Williams is 74-3 overall and has collected three of the past four major titles since the start of Wimbledon in 2012. That, perhaps not coincidentally, is when she began working with French tennis coach Patrick Mouratoglou, to whom Williams has been linked romantically.

Neither has confirmed publicly whether they're a couple, but Sharapova's shot on Saturday was taken as a reference to Williams and Mouratoglou. Sharapova was responding to a question about the portion of the *Rolling Stone* story in which Williams spoke to her sister about what the reporter described as "a top-five player who is now in love."

Williams lamented Sunday that "a private conversation" was reported about, but she also broke into peals of laughter when saying: "I've been in the business for a little over 200 years, so I should definitely, definitely know better. I should

know better to always have my guard up."

She is quoted in the article as saying: "She begins every interview with 'I'm so happy. I'm so lucky'—it's so boring. She's still not going to be invited to the cool parties. And, hey, if she wants to be with the guy with a black heart, go for it."

That is followed by these words in parentheses from the writer: "An educated guess is she's talking about Sharapova, who is now dating Grigor Dimitrov, one of Serena's rumored exes."

On Sunday, Williams said: "I made it a point to reach out to Maria. ... I said, 'Look, I want to personally apologize to you if you are offended by being brought into my situation. I want to take this moment to ... be open, say I'm very sorry.'"

Williams repeatedly used some version of the phrase "inadvertently brought into a situation" to describe the way Sharapova got involved.

"It's important what I've learned this week—mostly that it's so important to know all the facts before you make a comment or before you make an assumption," Williams said. "That's something I'm still learning."

There were other subjects discussed Sunday, if only briefly.

Those included Williams' first-round opponent (92nd-ranked Mandy Minella of Luxembourg).

And how Williams feels when she's not the favorite to win a title ("Not so often," she noted).

And what it's like to be at Wimbledon without the 33-year-old Venus, who also is a five-time champion but is sidelined by a lower back injury and will sit out the tournament for the first time since 1996.

"I feel so lonely. I feel like something is missing. So I talk to her all the time—more than usual," the younger Williams said.

"Before I left, she said, 'Snap out of it. It's time for you to pass me.' So that was really encouraging," Williams continued. "Hopefully I'll be able to do it."

Source: Clippers land new coach in Doc Rivers



BOSTON (AP)—Doc Rivers will be the next coach of the Los Angeles Clippers if the NBA approves the rare but not unprecedented trade of an active coach, a Boston Celtics official told The Associated Press on Sunday night.

The deal would bring Boston a first-round draft pick in 2015, according to the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because it is pending a trade call with the NBA office. Rivers, who had three years and \$21 million left on his contract

with the Celtics, must also reach an agreement on a new deal with the Clippers.

Celtics spokesman Jeff Twiss said the team had no announcement.

The tentative agreement on Sunday wraps up weeks of haggling over the deal and frees Rivers from presiding over the dismantling of the team that won the franchise's record 17th NBA title in 2008.

The Celtics and Clippers have also discussed sending Kevin Garnett to Los Angeles in a package with Rivers for draft choices, center DeAndre Jordan and point

guard Eric Bledsoe. But NBA commissioner David Stern nixed those talks this week, saying teams aren't allowed to trade active players for a coach.

A deal for Garnett could still happen, but the teams would have to convince the league that it was a separate deal. The 37-year-old big man has a no-trade clause in the contract that will pay him 23.5 million over the next two years, but it is believed he would waive it to be reunited with Rivers on the West Coast. He has also discussed retiring.

Boston could also cut ties with Paul Pierce, the longest-tenured

member of the team, who is due to earn \$15.3 million next season; he could be bought out for \$5 million. Pierce will be 36 by the 2013-14 opener and showed signs of slowing down this season, when he averaged the fewest minutes per game in his career.

Rivers took over the Celtics in 2004 in the midst of the longest title drought in franchise history and - with thanks to the New Big Three of Garnett, Pierce and Ray Allen—guided them to the 2008 NBA title. They returned to the NBA Finals two years later, losing to the Los Angeles Lakers in seven games.

But the Celtics have regressed steadily since then, twice failing to get past the Miami Heat in the Eastern Conference playoffs. This year they finished third in the Atlantic Division—they had won it five straight times—and lost to the New York Knicks in the first round.

That convinced many that it was time to rebuild—a process Rivers was reluctant to supervise. If the Celtics unload Garnett and Pierce, that would leave them with point guard Rajon Rondo as their only established star.

Rivers had the second-longest tenure of any NBA coach to San

Antonio's Gregg Popovich, compiling a 416-305 record in Boston that was the third-most wins in franchise history behind Red Auerbach (795) and Tommy Heinsohn (427). He also spent four-plus seasons with the Orlando Magic and is 587-473 in all.

Trades for coaches have occurred about a half-dozen times in NBA history, most recently in 2007 when the Heat received compensation for allowing Stan Van Gundy to go to the Orlando Magic.

In 1983, the Chicago Bulls sent a second-round draft pick to Atlanta as compensation for coach Kevin Loughery. The Hawks used that pick to take Glenn "Doc" Rivers.

Ken Duke rules Travelers Championship in playoff



CROMWELL, Conn. (AP) —

Ken Duke needed 187 starts on the PGA Tour to get his first win, securing it at a tournament that is building a reputation for such breakthroughs.

The 44-year-old journeyman made a 2 1/2 foot birdie putt on the second playoff hole Sunday to beat Chris Stroud at the Travelers Championship.

Stroud, who also was looking for his first title, had chipped in from 51 feet on the 18th hole, to get to 12-under par and force the playoff.

But Duke made the better approach shot on the second extra hole, bouncing his ball in front of the flag and rolling it close.

"Yeah, it's been a long time," said Duke, who turned pro in 1994. "I've been on the Canadian tour, the mini tours, Asian Tour, South American Tour, all of them; Web.com, and it's just great to be a part of this big family on the PGA Tour."

Duke, who came in ranked 144th in the world, is the sixth golfer in eight years to get his first PGA Tour win here, joining J.J. Henry (2006), Hunter Mahan (2007), Bubba Watson (2010), Fredrik Jacobsen (2011) and Marc Leishman last year.

Canadian Graham DeLaet finished a stroke back in third place with a 269. Watson finished fourth, two shots behind, after making a six on the par-3 16th hole.

"You gotta believe in yourself in everything you do," Duke said. "That's why those guys at the top are winning week in, week out because they believe they can do it. It's kind of one of those things once you finally do it it might come easier the next time. That's kind of the way I feel."

Duke wouldn't have been in position to win at all had luck not intervened on the 10th hole, when his ball ricocheted off a tree and onto the green to about 5 feet from the pin, allowing him to make birdie.

After a 17-foot birdie putt on the next hole, he made a 45-footer on the 13th hole, a shot that looked as though it might go past the hole to the right, before falling in.

He battled Watson for the lead down the back nine, until the former Masters champion found trouble on the 16th.

Watson put his drive into the water and put his next shot over the green.

He finished two strokes back in fourth place.

"The wind affected the first shot, and the wind didn't affect the next shot," Watson said. "I flew it three feet past the hole, which you can't do right now because the greens are so firm."



Ken Duke watches his tee shot on the second hole during the final round of the Travelers Championship golf tournament in Cromwell, Conn., Sunday, June 23, 2013.

Duke looked as though he had the tournament sewn up after saving par on 18, despite a tee shot that went well right and onto a hill, and a second shot that went just over the green. He used a putter to put the ball within 2 feet, then sank the putt as the crowd roared for what they thought was a winning shot.

It looked even more secure when Stroud's second shot hit near the stick, but then rolled well off the green. That just set up the dramatic chip shot.

Stroud hit his tee shot over the cart path and 94 yards from the hole on the first playoff hole, while Duke's first shot jumped out of a fairway bunker and into the rough.

Duke bounced his second shot onto the green. Stroud's went into a greenside bunker.

Stroud chipped to 8 feet but had to watch as Green almost sank a long putt that would have ended it.

The two both struck the ball well on the second playoff hole, but Stroud missed a 25-foot birdie putt, and Duke made his short putt.

"I had three shots from 94 yards on 18, the exact same yardage, and I could not figure out a way to stop that ball," Stroud said. "Regulation, luckily, I chipped it in."

Watson, Charley Hoffman and DeLaet began the day tied for the lead, but 21 other players were within five strokes.

Webb Simpson shot a 65 to finish at 271, then headed home immediately after his round despite being just a stroke behind the leaders at the time. He said he knew the score wouldn't be good enough to win.

"I'm itching to get to my family, so I'm going to head to the airport," he said.

Justin Rose followed his U.S. Open win by shooting 6-under par for this tournament. He was in contention, with two birdies on his first seven holes, but didn't get another until the final hole and made three bogeys. He said fatigue was a factor.

"I'm still able to put one foot in front of the other," he said. "I still feel OK, but my guess is there's just a little bit of sharpness that I might be lacking."

No player has gone back-to-back after capturing the U.S. Open since 1997, when Ernie Els won the Buick Classic at the Westchester Country Club in New York.

Rose plans to play next week at Congressional before taking two weeks off to prepare for the British Open.

DeLaet a native of, Weyburn, Saskatchewan, said his thoughts this week have been with the people of Alberta, where widespread flooding is blamed for at least three deaths and forced thousands to evacuate.

He had the words "For Alberta" written on his cap Sunday.

The 2009 Canadian Tour player of the year pledged to donate \$1,000 for every birdie he made to help the relief efforts.

PGA Tour Canada, a bank and a Canadian businessman all agreed to match the donation. He finished with three birdies on Sunday and nine for the weekend.

"Hopefully it puts a small dent in what they need," he said. "But our hearts are still with them."

Blue Jays win 11th straight, beat Orioles, 13-5



TORONTO (AP)—Edwin Encarnacion homered and drove in four runs and Josh Johnson earned his

first win of the season as the Toronto Blue Jays matched a team record by winning their 11th straight game Sunday, finishing a three-game sweep of Baltimore with a 13-5 win.

Toronto also won 11 straight in 1987 and 1998.

Ryan Flaherty hit two homers but Baltimore lost for the fifth time in eight games and allowed a season-high in runs.

Mariners 6, Athletics 3, 10 innings

In Seattle, pinch-hitter Kendrys Morales had a game-ending three-run homer in the 10th inning and Raul Ibanez connected twice for the Mariners in a victory over the Athletics.

Ibanez gave the Mariners the lead with a two-run homer in the first inning and added a solo shot in the third, his team-leading 17th. It was his second multihomer game this season and 18th of his career.

Royals 7, White Sox 6

In Kansas City, Missouri, the Kansas City Royals took advantage of a pair of errors by the Chicago White Sox to score three times in the eighth inning and rally for a win that avoided a three-game sweep.

The Royals trailed by two when they got consecutive singles by Mike Moustakas and David Lough off ace White Sox reliever Jesse Crain (2-2) to start the eighth. An error by Crain while trying to field a bunt by Elliot Johnson loaded the bases with nobody out.

Tigers 7, Red Sox 5

In Detroit, Torii Hunter hit a tiebreaking sacrifice fly in the eighth inning after two Boston errors helped load the bases, and Prince Fielder added a two-run single to help the Tigers to a sloppy victory over the Red Sox.

Justin Verlander struggled, and Detroit trailed 4-3 in the seventh before Andrew Miller (0-2) hit Jhonny Peralta with a pitch with the bases loaded to tie it.

Twins 5, Indians 3

In Cleveland, emergency starter Pedro Hernandez allowed two runs in five innings as the Twins avoided a three-game sweep with a win over the Indians.

Hernandez was recalled from Triple-A Rochester when scheduled starter Mike Pelfrey was scratched because of a strained back and placed on the 15-day disabled list.

Oswaldo Arcia and Josh Willingham each drove in a pair of runs while Trevor Plouffe's RBI single in the fifth put Minnesota ahead for good.

Rays 3, Yankees 1

In New York, James Loney hit a tiebreaking two-run single with two outs in the seventh inning as Rays beat the New York Yankees for a four-game series split.

Chris Archer (2-3) pitched six innings of one-run ball for his first win in three starts since June 7.

Fernando Rodney struck out the side in the ninth for his 15th save in 20 chances this season.

Pirates 10, Angels 9, 10 innings

In Anaheim, Calif., Pedro Alvarez homered for the fourth straight game and Starling Marte capped a three-run ninth inning with a tying single as the Pirates added four more in the 10th to beat the Angels and complete their first inter-league sweep on the road.

Trailing 6-3 entering the ninth, the Pirates pulled even against closer Ernesto Frieri — his second blown save in 19 attempts.

Russell Martin had RBIs in the ninth and 10th for Pittsburgh.

Reds 4, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, Mat Latos matched his career high

with 13 strikeouts as the Cincinnati Reds salvaged the finale of their three-game series in Arizona with a victory over the Diamondbacks.

Shin-Soo Choo hit a leadoff home run and Brandon Phillips added a two-run shot in the first inning off Randall Delgado (0-1).

That was plenty of offense for Latos (7-1), who allowed a run on six hits with one walk in 7 2-3 innings.

Braves 7, Brewers 4

In Milwaukee, Brian McCann hit an early grand slam as Atlanta got solo home runs from Chris Johnson and Jordan Schafer in a victory over Milwaukee.

Beaten 2-0 by the Brewers on Friday and Saturday, the Braves entered the game scoreless in 24 consecutive innings. The streak came to a quick end when McCann smacked a two-out shot to left-center in the first inning off Alfredo Figaro (1-2) for his 10th career slam.

Dodgers 3, Padres 1

In San Diego, Adrian Gonzalez and Hanley Ramirez hit back-to-back home runs in the ninth inning to lift Los Angeles over San Diego.

Gonzalez, the former Padres star, broke a 1-all tie with a drive to right field off closer Huston Street. Ramirez hit the next pitch to right-center to help the Dodgers split the four-game series. It was the second home run in two days for both players.

Mets 8, Phillies 0

In Philadelphia, David Wright homered, tripled and matched a Mets record with four extra-base hits to back Matt Harvey's splendid start in a lopsided victory over Philadelphia.

Wright went 4 for 5 with two of New York's season-high seven doubles to help the Mets take two of three in Philadelphia after winning a five-game series at first-place Atlanta.

Rockies 7, Nationals 6

In Washington, Michael Cuddyer homered in his first at-bat to extend the longest hitting streak in the majors this season to 21 games as Colorado hung on to beat Washington.

Cuddyer went 3 for 4 with four RBIs to break a tie with St. Louis third baseman David Freese for the year's top streak, and the Rockies right fielder is two games shy of matching the franchise's best run.

Marlins 7, Giants 2

In San Francisco, Justin Ruggiano hit a leadoff homer to get Miami started and added a two-run shot in the ninth, leading the Marlins to their 10th win in their last 11 games at San Francisco.

Nathan Eovaldi (1-0) held the Giants in check into the seventh inning and Marcell Ozuna hit an RBI double and a solo homer as the Marlins beat Matt Cain (5-4) and a struggling San Francisco bullpen.

Rangers 2, Cardinals 1

In St. Louis, Ian Kinsler singled in the tiebreaking run in the seventh inning after the Rangers knocked 10-game winner Adam Wainwright out of the game, and Texas completed a soggy, three-game sweep of St. Louis.

The finale of Texas' first visit to Busch Stadium since losing Games 6 and 7 of the 2011 World Series, and first time ever in the regular season, was delayed 2 hours and 59 minutes by heavy rain.

Cubs 14, Astros 6

In Chicago, Ryan Sweeney had a career-high six RBIs, including a three-run homer, as Chicago routed Houston.

Sweeney drove in runs in each of his first four at-bats, capping the stretch with his homer. He also had two doubles and a run-scoring grounder.

Anthony Rizzo added a two-run homer and finished 3 for 3 with four runs and four RBIs.

Youth futsal league kicks off Saturday



Saipan Soccer School will start the 2013 Youth Futsal League this Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

The league will have competition in two divisions—the boys and girls U18. Only the first four teams in each division to complete the requirements (signed registration and waiver forms and \$10 entry fee per player) will be allowed to play. Interested teams must be at the venue before the 4:30pm opening day.

Meanwhile, Session 2 of the 2013 Summer Soccer Camp is on-going and will run until July 5, while the last two will take place from July 8 to July 19

and July 22 to Aug. 2. Sessions for the U10 girls and boys will be held from 8:30am to 10am, while the U8 participants will have their turn from 10:30am to 12nn. Registration is free and forms are available at the SSS office at the JP Centre or at the NMIFA office at the TSL Plaza.

For more information on both events, call 235-8747, extension 148, or send email to saipan-soccerschool@gmail.com (*Saipan Tribune*)

Fake Madrid's Clayton Izuka goes for a save during their game against Astig Futsal in the Saipan Soccer School's holiday tournament early this year at the TSL Sports Complex. SSS will host another competition, starting this Saturday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Fake Madrid's Clayton Izuka goes for a save during their game against Astig Futsal in the Saipan Soccer School's holiday tournament early this year at the TSL Sports Complex. SSS will host another competition, starting this Saturday.

CNMI

From Page 28

Series trip after routing Hong Kong in the finals, 12-2.

The defending champion was the second team to be drawn to Pool B after New Zealand. Korea was third, followed by Thailand, Saudi Arabia, and the CNMI. In Pool A, Kuznicki picked Guam first from a bucket of baseballs, while United Arab Emirates was next, followed by Indonesia, Hong Kong, and Singapore. Only the Top 2 teams in each group after a round-robin play will advance to the playoffs.

The ASPAC, which will take place from June 30 to July 8

at the Clark Freeport Zone in Olongapo City, adopted Saudi Arabia and UAE from the disbanded Middle East group. Kuwait, Jordan, and Qatar are also competing in other divisions (Big League, Senior, and Junior), but draws of the remaining categories were unavailable at press time.

Acting CNMI District Administrator James Ada in a telephone interview with Saipan Tribune yesterday said the Philippines was scheduled to work on the schedule of games in all divisions last night and they will be posted at the tournament website soon.

Ada added that the CNMI Little League All-Stars, com-

posed of Donavin Ada, Kim Angailen, Luis Blas, Dennis Cabrera, Jose Camacho, Tyresse Camacho, Spencer Dickenson, Philip Kapileo, Jordan Lee Kosam, Jr., Pedro Maratita, Dai Podziewski, Shakobe Rangamar, Leonardo Salalila, and Sho Taguchi, will leave for the Philippines this Friday. The CNMI Little League All-Star Team members are all from Saipan as they earned the right to represent the Commonwealth to the ASPAC after sweeping Tinian in the district tournament, 17-0, and 18-0. Antonio Camacho is the team manager, while David Ada Jr. and Cadiz Tenorio are the coaches.

Also leaving this Friday are

the CNMI Junior All-Stars, composed of Nathan Camacho, Cedric Camacho, Allen Cepeda, Thomas Dela Cruz, Matthew Hamilton, Benen Iguel, Kier Agda, Francisco Lifofoi, Christian Lizama, Benjamin Maratita, Aurel Mendiola, Juan Quitugua Jr., Roke Tenorio, and Jose Tyquingco, manager Bernard Cabrera, and coaches Lawrence Camacho and David Cepeda.

The Rota All-Star Team will represent the CNMI in ASPAC's inaugural 50-70 program and the squad will also leave this Friday, while the CNMI Senior and Big League All-Stars will go to the Philippines this Saturday.

ZAPANTA

From Page 28

which allowed participants to compete on both days, but only the higher score is counted. The list includes Raymond Angeles (781), Jorge Soledad (749), Percy Omechelang (730), Simon Manacop (724), Raul Dumapit (717), Paul Pangelinan (707), Ramir De Leon (689),

Lee Yong Woon (687), Ronald Batac (687), Raphael Zapanta (673), Bernard Paraiso (659), Lito Teodoro (631), Ben Aizon (618), Edgar Abalos (615), Kim Jae Young (615), Jerry Kaneshi (608), and Atoy Banting (548).

In the Queen of the Lanes, eight keglers tried to eclipse the 729 pinfalls of Villavencio, but failed, giving the veteran bowler the June tiara.

Villavencio, who incidental-

ly won the January roll-offs with Raymond Zapanta and got her second title in February, totaled 729 pinfalls (184, 199, 175, and 171) in four games last Saturday for an average of 182.25.

Newest SBA member Kathy Mersai attempted to unseat Villavencio from the No. 1 spot, but gathered only 717 pinfalls last Sunday. Mersai had a promising start with her 201 pinfalls in Game 1, but

had a seesaw performance in the last three games (169, 195, and 152) to settle for runner-up honors. Diane Chong rounded out the Top 3 with her 705 pinfalls (198, 155, 189, and 163).

Completing last weekend's participants were Ron Cal (689), Gloria Omechelang (689), Tess Fabie (631), Gigi Zapanta (588), Elena Soll (580), and Marie Candado (534).

LBJ'S

From Page 28

"is the ultimate."

Amid all the celebrating, Heat president Pat Riley said he would do his best to bring everybody back, perhaps because he still owns the trademark to the term "Three-peat" dating to his days as coach of the Los Angeles Lakers.

"I just want this thing to keep going. I'm at an age right now where I'm ready to, you know, fly off somewhere. But I'm not going to, because the good lord has blessed me with a team that's allowed me to grab onto his coattails, for as long as they want to be together."

One storyline that underpinned the Finals, but didn't warrant much discussion until the trophy

presentation began, was the impending retirement of NBA commissioner David Stern.

Stern couldn't help patting himself on the back, noting that the Finals were being broadcast in 217 countries and 47 different languages after his 30 years of promoting the game worldwide. You have to wonder, though, whether secretly he wasn't hoping to hand over the hardware to the Spurs at least one more time.

These Finals were about opposing strategies on how to build a dominant franchise in the post-Jordan era. The Spurs, a small-market operation that built through the draft and filled out their ranks with a few shrewd pickups, are a marvel of consistency. They're coached by Gregg Popovich, who's learned to get by with less and

maximize every shot he gets.

The Heat were convenient villains, fair or not, for skipping most of the preliminaries and assembling the core of the team with little more than a checkbook. James' move to Miami touched off free-agent envy among his superstar brethren—everybody wanted to be a part of a Big Three somewhere—and the rest of the league is still scrambling to put one together as formidable as Riley's troika in Miami.

That's what made the Spurs' fold-up-and-crumple act in the last two games dispiriting. It's also why Tim Duncan did his best to not go gently into that good night, slamming his palm on the court—a rare show of emotion—after missing a bunny hook that would have tied the game with 50 seconds left.

He broke up trying to answer which of the last two losses would haunt him most.

"For me, Game 7," Duncan began. "Missing a layup to tie the game. ... Making a bad decision down the stretch. ... Unable to stop Dwyane and LeBron. "For me," he said finally, haltingly, "Game 7 will always haunt me."

It's not just that Duncan knows his advancing age will make even a return to the Finals a Herculean task—again. It's more that the Spurs, for all the things they've done right throughout a sneaky-good decade run, have almost certainly exhausted their chances.

The Heat, on the other hand—especially if James continues to improve season after season as convincingly as he has—may just be finding their stride.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS						
AMERICAN LEAGUE					Jeff Maggert (73), \$158,600	70-70-65-686273
East Division					Ricky Barnes (56), \$111,020	67-68-71-686274
	W	L	Pct	GB	Rickie Fowler (56), \$111,020	72-68-70-646274
Boston	45	33	.577	—	Russell Knox (56), \$111,020	69-67-69-696274
Baltimore	42	34	.553	2	Justin Rose (56), \$111,020	67-68-68-716274
New York	41	34	.547	2	Brendan Steele (56), \$111,020	68-68-72-666274
Toronto	38	36	.514	5	Keegan Bradley (51), \$76,860	69-65-72-696275
Tampa Bay	39	37	.513	5	Tommy Gainey (51), \$76,860	66-67-70-726275
Central Division					Jim Herman (51), \$76,860	69-67-67-726275
Detroit	42	32	.568	—	Nick O'Hern (51), \$76,860	67-66-68-746275
Cleveland	38	36	.514	4	Patrick Reed (51), \$76,860	66-66-73-706275
Kansas City	35	38	.479	6	Kevin Sutherland (51), \$76,860	69-70-68-686275
Minnesota	34	38	.472	7	Gary Christian (45), \$49,410	71-69-70-666276
Chicago	31	42	.425	10 1/2	Jerry Kelly (45), \$49,410	67-68-71-706276
West Division					Hunter Mahan (45), \$49,410	62-71-70-736276
Texas	44	32	.579	—	Greg Owen (45), \$49,410	70-69-69-686276
Oakland	44	34	.564	1	Andres Romero (45), \$49,410	71-68-67-706276
Seattle	34	43	.442	10 1/2	Nicholas Thompson (45), \$49,410	71-66-66-736276
Los Angeles	33	43	.434	11	Erik Compton (35), \$32,584	72-66-71-686277
Houston	29	48	.377	15	Freddie Jacobson (35), \$32,584	69-70-70-686277
NATIONAL LEAGUE					William McGirt (35), \$32,584	67-68-73-696277
East Division					John Merrick (35), \$32,584	65-71-71-706277
Atlanta	44	33	.571	—	Bryce Molder (35), \$32,584	67-70-73-676277
Washington	37	38	.493	6	Cameron Percy (35), \$32,584	71-68-71-676277
Philadelphia	36	40	.474	7	Aaron Watkins (35), \$32,584	69-69-70-696277
New York	30	42	.417	11	Chris Williams, \$32,584	71-68-69-696277
Miami	25	50	.333	18	Brian Davis (35), \$32,584	72-67-66-726277
Central Division					Richard H. Lee (35), \$32,584	66-71-66-746277
St. Louis	47	29	.618	—	Marc Leishman (35), \$32,584	66-70-68-736277
Pittsburgh	46	30	.605	1	D.J. Trahan (35), \$32,584	71-68-68-706277
Cincinnati	45	32	.584	2	Justin Thomas, \$0	72-66-66-736277
Chicago	31	43	.419	15	Jonas Blixt (26), \$19,627	70-67-73-686278
Milwaukee	31	43	.419	15	K.J. Choi (26), \$19,627	70-68-70-706278
West Division					Harris English (26), \$19,627	72-67-69-706278
Arizona	41	34	.547	—	Ian Poulter (26), \$19,627	73-66-67-726278
San Francisco	38	37	.507	3	Cheer Reavie (26), \$19,627	71-69-70-686278
Colorado	39	38	.506	3	Tag Ridings (26), \$19,627	68-65-71-746278
San Diego	38	38	.500	3	Vijay Singh (26), \$19,627	70-68-69-716278
Los Angeles	32	42	.432	8	Bo Van Pelt (26), \$19,627	67-70-72-696278
TRAVELERS CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES					Brad Fritsch (18), \$14,501	70-69-70-706279
CROMWELL, Connecticut (AP) 6 Scores					Brian Gay (18), \$14,501	68-69-71-716279
Saturday in the Travelers Championship, a US PGA Tour event at the 6,854-yard, par-70 TPC River Highlands:					Tom Gillis (18), \$14,501	69-69-71-706279
FINAL ROUND					Brian Harman (18), \$14,501	69-69-69-726279
x-Ken Duke (500), \$1,098,000	69-68-65-666268				D.H. Lee (18), \$14,501	72-68-70-696279
Chris Stroud (300), \$658,800	66-69-66-676268				Kevin Stadler (18), \$14,501	68-67-73-716279
Graham DeLaet (190), \$414,800	65-70-65-696269				Camilo Villegas (18), \$14,501	65-70-75-696279
Bubba Watson (135), \$292,800	63-67-70-706270				Tim Clark (12), \$13,542	73-67-66-746280
J.J. Henry (105), \$231,800	68-67-68-686271				Zach Johnson (12), \$13,542	65-70-75-706280
Webb Simpson (105), \$231,800	65-69-72-656271				Chris Kirk (12), \$13,542	66-72-69-736280
Charley Hoffman (88), \$196,725	61-73-66-726272				Seung-Yul Noh (12), \$13,542	68-68-72-726280
Ryan Moore (88), \$196,725	68-70-66-686272				Robert Streb (12), \$13,542	67-70-70-736280
Stuart Appleby (73), \$158,600	69-67-69-686273				Brendon de Jonge (7), \$12,871	67-67-75-726281
Angel Cabrera (73), \$158,600	67-72-71-636273				David Mathis (7), \$12,871	67-71-72-716281
Morgan Hoffmann (73), \$158,600	68-71-66-686273				Tim Petrovic (7), \$12,871	69-70-70-726281
					Dicky Pride (7), \$12,871	67-71-72-716281
					Heath Slocum (7), \$12,871	71-69-70-716281
					Mark Wilson (7), \$12,871	70-69-71-716281
					David Branshaw, \$12,444	67-71-72-726282
					Chad Campbell (2), \$12,261	70-69-70-746283
					Rod Pampling (2), \$12,261	65-74-71-736283
					Padraig Harrington (1), \$12,017	66-66-72-806284
					Casey Wittenberg (1), \$12,017	68-69-71-766284
					Lee Westwood (1), \$11,834	67-73-69-786287
					x-won on second playoff hole	
					BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS	

2013 North Pacific Regional Championships Winners

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO



CNMI coach Jeff Race, left, and ITF development officer to Pacific Oceania Gene Ridgway, second right, join boys U12 doubles runners-up, from left, Robbie Schorr and Joshua Abragan and champions Michael Ren and Vincent Tudela during the awards ceremony for the 2013 North Pacific Regional Championships mid this month at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.



Boys U18 singles winner Jake Lee, right, and runner-up Amami Sakano pose with their medals.



ITF development officer to Pacific Oceania Gene Ridgway waits for the players to settle in before starting the awards ceremony.



Boys U15 doubles winners Brian Tuncap and Andrew Chong of Guam are joined by runners-up and CNMI's Dylan Ackerman and Colin Ramsey.



Girls U15 doubles runners-up Isabel Heras and Emily Jones pose with champions Negahr Rastguir and Tammy Ackerman.



Boys U18 doubles second placers Amami Sakano and Daniel Park join winners Tommy Choi and Jake Lee.



From left, girls U15 runner-up Ayana Rengiil of Palau, third place finisher Tammy Ackerman and winner Negahr Rastguir pose with their medals.



Boys U15 singles champion Chris Cajigan, center, poses with runner-up FSM's Terry Lee Rush-Apis, second left, and third placer Moris Villanueva, second right.



Girls U12 singles winner Carol Lee, second right, and runner-up Tania Tan are joined by FSM's Anne Skilling, second left, and Tilda Tollenoa for a group photo.



Girls U18 doubles runners-up Amanda Hawkins and Margaret Finnen of FSM pose with champions Mikayla Lopez and Thea Minor.



Wimbledon
spat: Williams,
Sharapova
trade volleys

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Saipan Tribune Sports



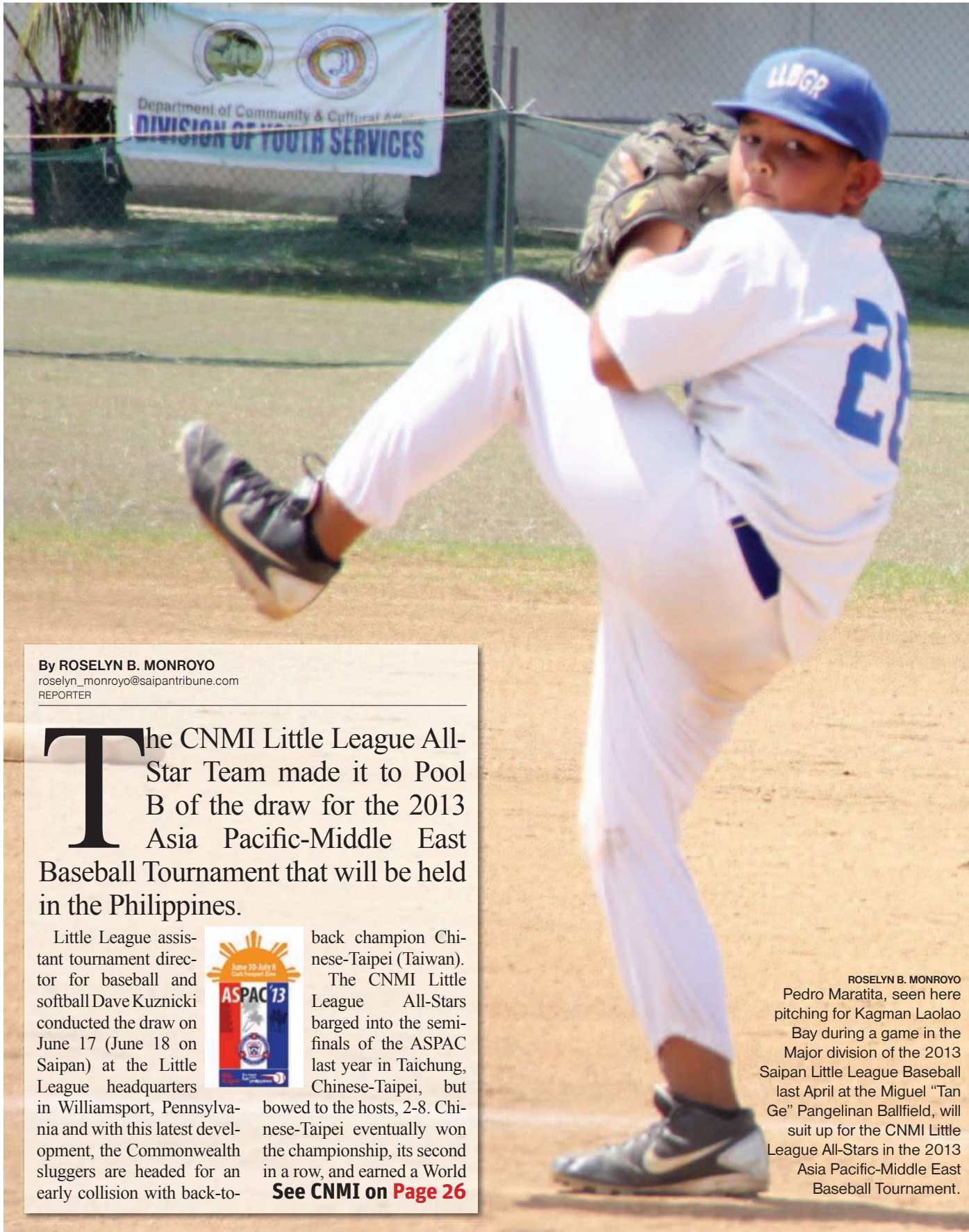
Ken Duke rules
Travelers
Championship
in playoff

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2013

CNMI vs Taiwan in early ASPAC duel



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Little League All-Star Team made it to Pool B of the draw for the 2013 Asia Pacific-Middle East Baseball Tournament that will be held in the Philippines.

Little League assistant tournament director for baseball and softball Dave Kuznicki conducted the draw on June 17 (June 18 on Saipan) at the Little League headquarters in Williamsport, Pennsylvania and with this latest development, the Commonwealth sluggers are headed for an early collision with back-to-



back champion Chinese-Taipei (Taiwan). The CNMI Little League All-Stars barged into the semi-finals of the ASPAC last year in Taichung, Chinese-Taipei, but bowed to the hosts, 2-8. Chinese-Taipei eventually won the championship, its second in a row, and earned a World **See CNMI on Page 26**

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Pedro Maratita, seen here pitching for Kagman Laolao Bay during a game in the Major division of the 2013 Saipan Little League Baseball last April at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield, will suit up for the CNMI Little League All-Stars in the 2013 Asia Pacific-Middle East Baseball Tournament.

By JIM LITKE
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LBJ's 'Decision' looks smart in hindsight

Chris Bosh told those Heat fans who had left Game 6 early to stay home, and judging strictly by his line in Game 7, he barely bothered to show up himself.

Fortunately, LeBron James and Dwyane Wade did. "The vision that I had when I decided to come here is all coming true," James said after the Heat beat the Spurs 95-88 in Game 7 on Thursday night to capture a second straight NBA title in their third consecutive Finals appearance.

And he's right.

James was already the best player in the game when he made "The Decision" nearly three years ago, a move that the rest of the basketball world pounced on as a sign of weakness, a tacit admission that he couldn't win a championship all by himself.

James was right on that score, too.

Bosh, always destined to be third among The Big Three, wasn't much help on this night, contributing zero points on 0-for-5 shooting with seven rebounds. But Wade stepped up, despite a shaky knee, and Shane Battier had a career shooting night when it counted.

Wade surrendered his lead-dog role with the Heat to recruit James in 2010, but took over during a rocky stretch in the second quarter and proved he could still be the man when it mattered. He finished with 23 points and 10 rebounds.

Battier, perhaps the most cerebral guy in the NBA, snapped out of a poor-shooting streak to make 6 of 8 attempts from beyond the arc, and cracked afterward, "It's better to be timely than good."

The Heat still look like a chemistry experiment-in-progress some nights, a collection of Type-A personalities waiting for their cue to take over. James was reluctant to do so at first, because his personality—as has been endlessly dissected—reflects Magic Johnson's pass-first demeanor more than Michael Jordan's shoot-always attitude.

But as James reminded everyone at the end of both Game 6, when the Spurs first dared him to drive the ball to the basket, then Game 7, when his defender laid back and dared James to shoot from the perimeter, scoring is not a problem. Even if those long and mid-range jumpers were not among his strengths before this season began.

"I put a lot of work into my game over the offseason and to come out here and see the results happen on the floor," he said, **See LBJ's on Page 26**

Zapanta, Villavicencio top June roll-offs

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Raymond Zapanta and Yho Villavicencio notched their third win for the season after ruling the SBA/Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tournament for June held last Saturday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Zapanta, who topped the January and April roll-offs before

having a so-so performance last month, regained his form in the June tournament, as he nearly recorded 200-plus pinfalls in all four games last Sunday. He began last weekend's competition with a 705-pinfal performance (167, 208, 164, and 166) last Saturday during Day 1 of the roll-offs and it was only good for eighth place.

The IT&E employee then returned for the Sunday roll-off and got off to a good start with his



Zapanta



Villavicencio

224 pinfalls in Game 1. Zapanta then slowed down a bit in Game 2 with his 184, but recovered big time in Game 3 with his 246 before closing out with a 193 in Game 4 to earn 847 pinfalls and average of 211.75. He won by only nine pinfalls against Day 1 leader Robert Talavera (838).

Talavera almost posted 200-plus pinfalls in four games, too, missing the feat only in Game 2 (180). His three other scores were 211, 226, and 221, netting him a 209.50 average. He came back for the Sunday roll-off, but tallied only 654 pinfalls. Only

Talavera and Raymond Zapanta broke the 200-mark average, as eventual third place Ruselle Zapanta fell short with his 199 and 796 four-game total.

Ruselle Zapanta dropped to second in Day 1 of the tournament and then settled for third at the completion of the June roll-offs after he struggled in Games 1 and 2 with his 180 and 186 pinfalls before finding his rhythm in the last two (217 and 213).

Seventeen other bowlers joined the weekend roll-offs, **See ZAPANTA on Page 26**